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Huge job cuts likely in end of Big Three

REPORT Canada would lose at least 582,000 jobs — mostly in Ontario — within five years if the Detroit Three auto makers go out of business, according to a new provincial report obtained by Torstar News Service. The review, prepared for the Ministry of Economic Development and to be released today, warns the collapse of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler would send lasting shock waves through the economy. If production were to cease completely, 323,000 jobs would be lost immediately in Canada, including 281,800 in this province, rising to 582,000 nationally and 517,000 in Ontario by 2014. Under this scenario, the report predicts the national unemployment rate would increase by 1.2 per cent in 2009, and 0.5 per cent every year for the following five years.

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Metrolinx to helm rail link initiative

Health/Beauty pg 28

Warm up to cool activity

Sports pg 19

GTA talents in Team Canada

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Harper hints at bailouts

PM, Flaherty get 'serious' about saving economy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the Conservative government will have to run a budget deficit to bring in billions of dollars worth of recovery programs for the hard-hit economy.

"We're talking about spending billions of dollars that was not planned," he told CTV's Atlantic affiliate in a preview of the Jan. 27 budget.

"We want to bring in some recovery programs that will help us sustain economic activity and avoid some of the worst problems, particularly in some of the sectors that you're familiar with," Harper remarked. It was an apparent reference to the struggling manufacturing, auto and forestry industries.

It was Harper's most explicit statement so far that the Conservative minority, which was nearly ousted from power for not boosting the economy, plans a significant stimulus package in next month's federal budget. Harper said he regretted the political uproar set off by the Tories' Nov. 27 economic package.

Earlier, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty met with senior Liberals to discuss the possible contents of the budget. Liberal MP John McCallum said during the closed-door meeting Flaherty admitted that economic forecasts in his November update were too optimistic.

"We want to bring in some recovery programs that will help us sustain economic activity."
Prime Minister Stephen Harper

"On the growth forecast, he acknowledged that, since the fiscal update, the economic outlook has deteriorated and that really has some implications," McCallum said in an interview.

On Nov. 27, Flaherty told the House of Commons that Ottawa would run slim budget surpluses this year and next and that the economy would grow by 0.3 per cent in 2009.

With the Bank of Canada now saying the country is going into a recession, those predictions are generally seen as much too rosy. Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, for example, has said the federal budget deficit could balloon to $14 billion next year.

Flaherty also seemed "more serious" than in the past about including measures in his upcoming budget to kickstart the sputtering economy, McCallum reported.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Video: Jim Flaherty admits economic situation is worse than predicted a month ago at metronews.ca/canada

Real-time info for TTC riders on the go

If information is power, then the TTC is about to put a little bit more of it into the hands of riders.

A new $5.2 million GPS-based screen system means TTC patrons will have access to next-vehicle arrival information on streetcar and bus platforms by early 2010.

But even before that system is fully installed, riders also will be able to get information about when the next bus or streetcar will arrive via text messages on their cellphones.

LCD displays inside stations will show when the next several vehicles are due to arrive and map where other streetcars and buses are located down the route. LED screens, which are less susceptible to weather conditions, will announce next-vehicle arrival information on platforms.

By late next year, similar information will be available on LED screens at about 350 outdoor transit shelters across the city.

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC passengers board a streetcar at Spadina station at Bloor Street yesterday. TTC launched its next-vehicle arrival notification system which will give commuters real-time information on when their next bus or streetcar will arrive.

Giving riders the ability to learn how far down the line the next vehicle is in real time means they can grab a cab instead or take time to get a coffee, depending on their personal schedule.

"It will give people more information to make intelligent decisions about how they travel and move around the city, and that's critical," said TTC chair Adam Giambrone, who showed off the new screens at the 510 Spadina streetcar platform yesterday.

Know your Rocket

- More is coming in the next year, including the opportunity to sign up for e-mail alerts on problems in the system. Next summer, the TTC hopes to launch a trip planner that will help riders map and time a route anywhere on the system.

The system is expected to become increasingly accurate as it records data based on variations in the vehicles' travel pattern and calculates the differences, he said.

Also coming to the TTC next year is a new text-based system that will allow riders to receive next-vehicle-arrival information for every one of the more than 10,000 bus and streetcar stops in the city via text messaging. Each stop will be posted with an individual number that riders can use to access that information.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Girl stabbed in neck at subway station
Police are looking for a 17-year-old girl after another teenage girl was stabbed in the neck at Kennedy subway station yesterday. Police, who couldn't confirm if the victim knew the suspect, say the 16-year-old victim was stabbed just before 4 p.m. She was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

City picks new economic chief

After searching for a year and a half, Toronto has finally hired a general manager of economic development. Mike Williams, currently vice-president of investment attraction with the Toronto Region Research Alliance, will start the job Feb. 2. He will be director of both Build Toronto, which focuses on developing city-owned property, and Invest Toronto, which focuses on enlisting private sector expertise to attract new business.

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Tomorrow's Metro

Automotive

Michael Goetz talks about why 2009 will be a good year to buy a car in his new column, Auto Pilot.

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What's online today.

Video Stephen Harper pays tribute to soldiers killed in Afghanistan at **metronews.ca/canada**

Read It may sound scary, but borrowing to invest can be a sound strategy at **metronews.ca/investing**

Video Jim Flaherty admits economic situation is worse than predicted a month ago at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 3 4 1; **Ontario Pick 4:** 1 8 6 1
Encore: 9852624
Daily Keno: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 35, 38, 44, 47, 51, 54, 58 & 60
These results are not official.

Vaughan councillors urge Mayor Jackson to resign

Vaughan councillors stood together in the lobby of city hall yesterday for an extraordinary news conference at which they collectively asked Mayor Linda Jackson to resign — something she defiantly said she would not do.

The non-confidence move carries no legal weight, but the show of unity and their harsh public tongue-lashing of the absent Jackson sent a pointed message: Not only were the gloves off, but council was now moving toward an end game that did not include her.

The councillors said they were pushing ahead with a 10-point program covering everything from the proposed downtown centre to revised expense policies, with or without her co-operation.

They cited a litany of complaints against Jackson, including violations of city policy over expense claims, an ongoing court battle involving alleged election finance irregularities, and criticisms she lacks good judgment and work ethic.

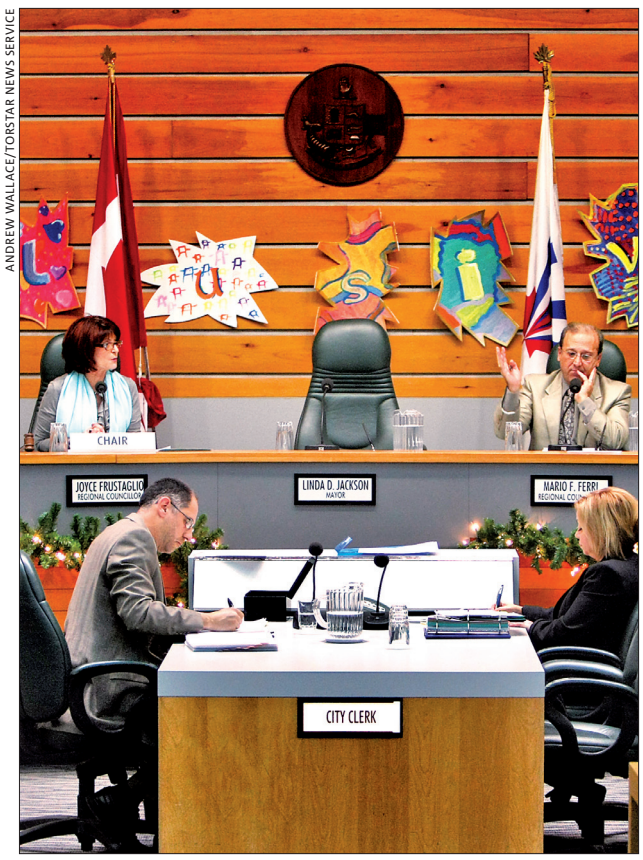
Jackson remained defiant, calling a late afternoon news conference of her own where she labelled the attack a "political circus" and said she had no intention of quitting.

"I remain steadfast and have absolutely no plans to resign my seat as the mayor of the city of Vaughan," said Jackson, adding she was still willing to work with city council, including on a review of expense policies. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

History

- When councillors decided to pursue charges of election-finance irregularities against Mayor Linda Jackson earlier this year, Jackson sued them. She alleged they were acting in bad faith and criticized the vagueness in the Municipal Elections Act, which she said has resulted in a process that violated her Charter rights.

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Vaughan councillors Joyce Frustaglio, left, and Mario Ferri bookend the empty chair of Vaughan Mayor Linda Jackson during a special morning council meeting called by the mayor.

Police trade digital cams for 1,900 guns

AMNESTY Shootings in the city are likely to go up in the wake of a record-shattering gun amnesty program just completed by the Toronto police.

Luckily, the shots will be of the safe, photographic variety with the force's Pixels for Pistols program having handed out digital cameras in exchange for roughly 1,900 guns and 60,000 bullets.

"It's huge," Sgt. Chris Boddy, head of the program, said. "Last amnesty (in 2005) we only got 250 firearms and less than 20,000 rounds of ammunition."

This year's tally included 542 handguns and 1,355 rifles and shotguns, along with 58,217 rounds of ammunition. Not included in the total are 240 pellet guns handed in.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More charges for brothers accused in racing deaths

MISSISSAUGA Two Mississauga brothers accused of killing two women while racing now face four new charges.

Brian Machado, 28, and his brother Steven, 23, already faced two charges each of criminal negligence causing death in connection with the Oct. 6, 2007, crash that claimed the lives of best friends Cynthia Dougherty, 49, of Beeton and Maria Dalsass, 44, of Palgrave.

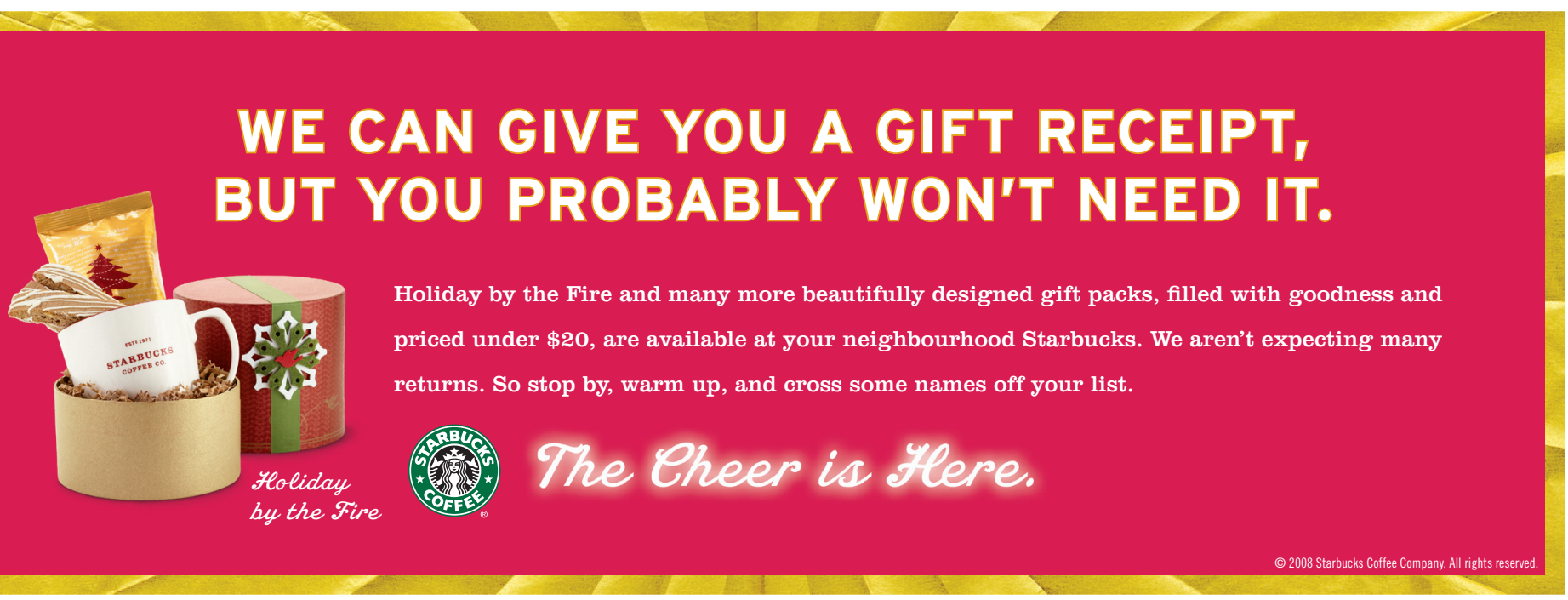
Crown prosecutor Sean Doyle yesterday added four charges related specifically to street racing — offences that could result in life prison sentences if convicted.

Details of the preliminary hearing and reasons behind the additional charges remain under a publication ban. Justice Bruce Duncan yesterday committed the brothers to a trial that will start next year.

The brothers now face two charges each of dangerous street racing causing death and two charges each of criminal street racing causing death. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Code

- Criminal Code changes were enacted in late 2006 to make street racing a specific offence in connection with dangerous driving and criminal negligence.



York police cleared in police chase death

The Special Investigations Unit has cleared the York Regional Police of any wrongdoing in the death of a Markham woman during a police chase. Sara Foy's minivan went through a red light, and hit a dump truck on Sept. 16, said the report, noting police followed the minivan after receiving reports of "a possible impaired driver." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At a theatre near you: Beer

Toronto cinema testing alcohol offering

Would you like a beer to go with your popcorn, or a glass of red wine with your Twizzlers?

Some moviegoers in Toronto now have those and other alcoholic options thanks to a one-year pilot project to see whether booze and movies can mix without any trouble.

The downtown Varsity cinema has had its special liquor licence since Friday. Customers can have a drink while watching a movie in one of four specially designated VIP theatres, where tickets carry a $5 surcharge.

Consumers had been asking for bar service in theatres for some time — particularly in cinemas that have a licensed bar in the lobby — and, so far, customer feedback has been positive, said Cineplex Entertainment spokeswoman Pat Marshall.

"It was an extension of a request from a number of our guests over the years who had said, 'Why is it that we can buy alcohol in the lounge but we can't take it 10 more feet into the auditorium,'" Marshall said.

She said she's not worried about drunk patrons becoming a problem since there's a two-drink maximum, which is enforced by servers who deliver drinks right to a customer's seat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pre-film service

- Drinks at the Varsity cinema are only served before a movie starts and not during the film, Cineplex spokeswoman Pat Marshall said.

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Katy Perry **Singing in Toronto**

MUCHMUSIC PHOTO

Singer Katy Perry, known for her song I Kissed A Girl, performs yesterday at MuchOnDemand on Queen Street.

Colon cancer test less effective on right side, Toronto researchers say

STUDY A popular screening test for colon cancer is less accurate and prevents fewer deaths than doctors have believed, Toronto researchers say.

The study, published yesterday, found colonoscopies are only effective at catching cancers that develop on the left side of the colon, and miss almost all cancers that start on the right side of the organ.

Dr. Linda Rabeneck, the study's senior author, said for patients with colon cancer that developed on the right side of the colon, having a colonoscopy only reduced their risk of death by 1 per cent.

Experts say the findings will help spur the medical community to improve how a colonoscopy is performed. They also say the test remains valuable and stress the study does not mean people should avoid having colonoscopies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kay won't lose job over drunken speech

FASHION WEEK Robin Kay, the president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada who made headlines with a drunken, rambling speech at the recent Toronto Fashion Week, will keep her job.

After a wait of almost two months, the council, which mounts the twice-yearly round of fashion week shows in Nathan Phillips Square, announced yesterday that Kay won't be censured for delivering the incomprehensible speech on the opening night of the October event.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

YORK More than 120 striking teaching assistants and student supporters at York University have occupied a hallway outside the school president's office. The union representing the striking workers says the protesters are calling on Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri to sign a commitment to hold a public forum in the first week of January. The protest is part of a planned week of action to increase pressure on administrators to reach a deal in the strike. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Boy in hospital after collision

An 18-month-old boy is fighting for his life at the Hospital for Sick Children after a collision in Whitby yesterday. The boy was trapped in his car seat in a Chevrolet Optra after being hit by a pickup truck. The truck ran a stop sign on Town Line Road around 11 a.m., the OPP said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Metrolinx to helm airport rail link

Provincial agency taking over controversial transit project from GO

Metrolinx is taking control of the proposed rail link between Union Station and Pearson International Airport, removing the controversial project from GO Transit's jurisdiction.

The project has been stalled for years, stuck between downtown policy planners and opposition from Weston residents on the Georgetown GO line, who would see increased rail traffic that they fear would split the neighbourhood.

"We're going to be meeting with the communities all along the corridor and we're going to be looking at the preliminary studies that have been done on the previous project, so we will not be starting from scratch," said Colleen Bell, Metrolinx's manager of community relations.

"We're going to be meeting with the communities all along the corridor and we're going to be looking at the preliminary studies." Metrolinx's Colleen Bell

Ontario's Ministry of Transportation ordered the move. It permits Metrolinx — the provincial agency charged with integrating regional transportation — to utilize a faster environmental assessment process designed for transit projects.

A "Transit Environmental Assessment" would begin next spring and take six months — much less than the original process.

But Mike Sullivan, chair of the Weston Community Coalition, a group founded to oppose the project, still has reservations.

He said Metrolinx should use electric trains instead of diesel and bury the tracks in tunnels through residential neighbourhoods.

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Hospitals relieved as nuke plant restarts

Toronto hospitals are breathing a sigh of relief because a possible radioactive isotope shortage has been averted.

"We were lucky this time around," said Dawn-Marie King, director of clinical operations for the joint department of medical imaging for Toronto General, Toronto Western, Princess Margaret, Women's College and Mount Sinai hospitals. "We should end up with isotopes on Thursday of this week."

Isotope use

- Hospitals use isotopes for nuclear imaging testing that can help diagnose a wide array of problems, including heart disease, blood clots and cancer.

The Chalk River nuclear facility, which produces the medical isotopes, was shut down for routine maintenance on Dec. 5. That maintenance lasted 6½ days, prompting some to fear a possible global shortfall of radioactive isotopes. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. produces more than half of the world's medical isotopes.

But the shortfall was short-lived and any crisis has now been avoided since Chalk River went back into full production last Friday, said Dr. Christopher O'Brien, president of the Ontario Association of Nuclear Medicine and medical director of nuclear medicine at Brantford General Hospital.

"We've dodged the bullet this time," said O'Brien. But it will be several days before radioactive isotopes are distributed.

"This is good news now, but this also reflects things to come," O'Brien said. "There is no replacement for Chalk River and if it goes down for any specific period of time we will be in dire straights."

Meanwhile, about 20 to 30 elective patients who needed tests at Toronto General, Western, Princess Margaret, Women's College and Mount Sinai had to be rescheduled because of the temporary shortage of isotopes. Some were brought in for medical imaging tests early; others have been rescheduled until the end of the week.

Because of the shutdown at Chalk River, radioactive isotopes were still in short supply yesterday. They will continue to be down today and tomorrow but by Thursday, Toronto hospitals are expecting to receive all the isotopes they require, said King.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City, ex-worker reach deal

VAUGHAN The City of Vaughan and an ex-employee, who had claimed he was wrongfully dismissed after raising questions about invoicing practices in the fleet department, have arrived at an out-of-court settlement.

The settlement with Paul Donofrio was announced yesterday by Coun. Joyce Frustaglio, who described the undisclosed terms as "mutually satisfactory," after a closed-door council meeting.

Donofrio agreed to withdraw litigation against senior officials, including allegations that he was threatened, and signed a statement that he was "now satisfied there was no wrongdoing." He refrained from comment yesterday.

Donofrio was the subject of private e-mails between Mayor Linda Jackson and a York Region police officer, which created a stir when copies mysteriously landed on defeated mayor Michael Di Biase's doorstep during the last election.

Donofrio's allegations were also probed by the OPP, which cleared the city of criminal wrongdoing.

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Kenk back in court Igor Kenk, who was arrested earlier this year on bicycle theft charges, will be back in court today on assault charges. He is accused of swinging a pipe at two people in a property dispute Sunday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maple Leaf aims to clean brand's image

Cold cuts giant Maple Leaf Foods launched Phase 2 of a nationwide damage-control campaign yesterday, aimed at restoring consumer confidence to the embattled brand.

For the first time since this summer's listeria outbreak, reporters were invited to tour the multimillion-dollar renovations made at the Bartor Road plant — the source of the contaminated meat — as well as review the company's new food safety protocol.

Last night also marked the beginning of a week-long commercial blitz, featuring an earnest-looking Maple Leaf president and CEO Michael McCain.

"I promised you that Maple Leaf will always put food safety first and we have. The recall is over and the problems that led to it have been fixed," he said solemnly in the minute-long ad, which has also been posted on YouTube.

On Aug. 17, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced a recall of two Maple Leaf products, which had tested positive for listeria. The company extended the recall to dozens of products, the largest meat recall in Canadian history. More than 20 people died and hundreds became ill.

Listeria is bacteria, which, if ingested, can cause a disease called listeriosis. Maple Leaf Foods officials believe the contaminated roast and corned beef products came off lines 8 or 9, sometime in July at the Bartor Road plant.

Those lines have both since been replaced, explained Iain Stewart, Maple Leaf's senior vice-president of food safety and transformation, yesterday.

"We have rewritten over 200 of the standard operating procedures," he said.

Among the changes: Daily sanitization of meat slicing equipment, biweekly disassembly and deep cleansing of each line, double the number of testing and sampling sites, and changes to traffic flow within the plant to curb possible contamination. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A worker at the Maple Leaf Bartor Road plant shows new cleaning methods used on the slicers.

New position

- Maple Leaf has also created a chief food safety officer position, effective Jan. 5.

Bullet never recovered in shooting, trial told

MISSISSAUGA Police never recovered a bullet used in the deadly shooting of a Mississauga man, jurors heard yesterday.

Without the bullet, police couldn't match a pistol located about a month later to Otis Johnson's death in Mississauga on Jan. 3, 2007.

Shane Staniek, a forensic firearms expert, testified yesterday at the Brampton trial of two Toronto men accused of murdering Johnson that he was shot from a distance of between three to seven feet. The bullet entered his lower right back and exited from his mid back on his left side. Johnson, 34, died soon afterwards in hospital.

Romeo Constantine, 25, and Karim Creighton, 24, have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder. It's the Crown's case that Johnson was shot to death during a drug rip-off.

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Canadian UN envoy missing in Africa

A retired Canadian diplomat and UN special envoy is missing in west Africa. A UN spokesman says there's no trace of Robert Fowler, his aide and his driver. His empty car was found 45 kilometres from the capital of Nigeria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Life in prison

People gathered outside an Alberta courtroom to hear that Jeremy Steinke, a young Alberta man, was formally sentenced to life in prison for killing his 12-year-old girlfriend's parents and brother. He will not be eligible for parole for 25 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Province quietly orders review of stun guns

The Ontario government has called for a review of all X-26 Tasers to make sure they are functioning properly. Another review on all conducted energy weapons, which began early this year, should be out in the next few weeks, according to Tony Brown, a spokesperson with the community safety and corrections ministry.

There are an estimated 2,000 conducted energy weapons — models X-26 and the M-26 — in Ontario, Brown said, adding that number does not include the RCMP devices in the province.

"The ministry has asked police services to do an inventory and have tested X-26 models manufactured before Dec. 31, 2005," said Brown.

"The testing is to ensure the Tasers are operating as (they) should."

Concerns arose following a CBC media report that one model of the weapon sent out a higher electrical voltage than specified by the manufacturer.

In British Columbia last week, all weapons acquired before Jan. 1, 2006, were pulled from service for further testing.

Also last week, B.C. prosecutors announced there would be no charges against any of the four RCMP officers who confronted and used a Taser to stun Polish citizen Robert Dziekanski at the Vancouver airport before he died in October 2007.

Earlier this year, the Ontario ministry of community safety and corrections began a review of Tasers, along with police, regarding use, best practices, and a "whole range of issues" around Tasers, said Brown. "We are expecting we'll have a conclusion to the review sometime in the early new year."

"It is a less lethal use of force option," said Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Pierre Chamberland, who added they have never had any "issues whatsoever" of concern with their weapons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Causes of death

- A review found Robert Dziekanski's death was not directly caused by the Taser.
- But they were a contributing factor, along with heart disease, alcohol withdrawal, the stress of being restrained and a decreased ability to breathe due to an officer kneeling on him.

Radler released

Ex-Chicago publisher imprisoned for swindling with Conrad Black granted parole

Former newspaper executive David Radler, imprisoned for joining Conrad Black in a multimillion-dollar swindle of the Hollinger International media empire, has been granted full parole from a Canadian prison.

The 65-year-old was convicted in the U.S. and sentenced to 29 months at federal jail in Pennsylvania in February.

Radler was transferred in September to a Canadian prison to serve out his sentence.

In a decision released yesterday, the National Parole Board granted Radler full parole. Although the board would not confirm that Radler has left prison, he was eligible for release on Sunday.

In granting Radler parole, the board noted that his crime did not involve violence. "Your file does not contain any indication of behaviour that demonstrates a potential for violence," the board noted.

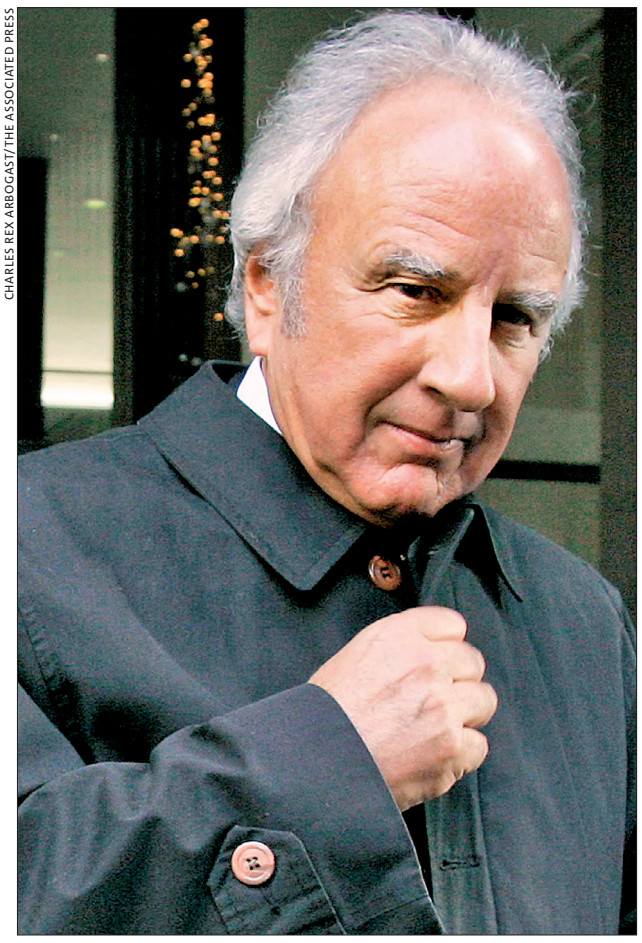
It said Radler committed his offence for financial gain. "Your greed has resulted in this sentence and the Correctional Service of Canada has no programs identified on your correctional plan to address this stressor," the board wrote.

Radler pleaded guilty to a single count of mail fraud under a bargain that included his testimony against his co-accused.

Six other fraud counts against him were dropped as part of the plea agreement.

Under the terms of his release, Radler must provide full financial disclosure to his parole officer on request and can't have any contact with his co-accused without written permission. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Former Chicago Sun-Times publisher David Radler departs court last December after his sentencing as part of a deal with prosecutors for testimony against former media baron Conrad Black.

Coalition best way to mend economy, says Bloc leader

GOVERNMENT Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe made an effort to keep a proposed Liberal-NDP coalition alive yesterday, calling it the best solution to the economic crisis.

Although Duceppe maintained the coalition is the solution, he declined to say whether it will survive until the end of January, when the Conservative government has promised to release its budget.

"A lot of things could happen till the end of January." Gilles Duceppe

"I don't make predictions, especially those considering the future," Duceppe said. "A lot of things could happen till the end of January."

His comments came the day after NDP Leader Jack Layton softened his tone on the coalition in response to newly chosen Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff's cautious attitude toward taking down the Conservative minority.

Ignatieff has said he's ready for a no-confidence vote against the Tories if it comes to that. But he also said he'll hold off on making any final decisions until he sees the budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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StatsCan says native people still behind in job market
Statistics Canada says native people still lag behind in the job market, even those with university and college degrees. There's an off-reserve employment rate gap of 6 per cent between educated native and non-native people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba capital of car theft

Province earns dubious distinction 11 years in a row

A teen subculture fuelled by the thrill of stealing cars for joy rides has helped drive Manitoba to the No. 1 spot in the country yet again for vehicle thefts, according to Statistics Canada.

The province has topped the list for 11 years straight. Experts say that won't last long because of an aggressive program targeting teen car thieves, but Manitoba has a long way to go.

While the overall national rate of vehicle thefts dropped 9 per cent in 2007, Manitoba's rate was double that of the next highest province, Alberta.

"It's just part of who the kids are. Their identities are wrapped up in stealing cars."
Rick Linden, University of Manitoba

"In contrast to Canada as a whole, Manitoba's rate of police-reported motor vehicle theft gradually climbed until 2004," notes the Statistics Canada report released yesterday.

"Since then, vehicle theft rates in Manitoba have declined in two of the past three years, including a 10 per cent drop in 2007. However, the province's 2007 rate remained the highest in the country for the 11th straight year and was 24 per cent higher than a decade ago."

"We've been No.1 for a long time because auto theft has become a part of the youth culture in some parts of Winnipeg," said Rick Linden, professor of sociology at the University of Manitoba.

"It's just part of who the kids are. Their identities are wrapped up in stealing cars. They demonstrate their sense of adventure. They get excitement out of stealing cars.

"They get a lot of peer approval out of stealing cars."

In one case, a teenager cut off an electronic monitoring bracelet so he could continue stealing cars while on probation.

In another case, several teens stole a car to drive to a rehabilitation program.

And in an unusual move last week, a judge ordered a chronic teen car thief to be sent outside the province for rehab to get him away from the influence of his peers. The cars are generally used for joyriding or to deliver drugs, and then abandoned, Linden said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province asks public to rate home-care centres on website

SERVICES The Ontario government wants the public to gauge the quality of home care on a website that should be up and running next fall.

Health Minister David Caplan announced a host of home-care reforms yesterday in an effort to reorganize and better provide services to 600,000 Ontarians. Community Care Access Centres will now have teams able to match clients with workers best-equipped to care for their medical conditions.

Those with Alzheimer's disease or diabetes will be cared for by providers specifically trained to manage those illnesses, he said yesterday. "This home-care strategy will ensure that the client comes first," Caplan said.

"It is now a value-based competition."
David Caplan

The centres will also be given expanded roles. They will be able to manage the placement of people into programs such as adult day programs or facilities such as supportive housing. Centres will also provide more services like diagnostic and respiratory therapy, and offer nursing and other treatment services

"It is now a value-based competition," he said. "Here the patient wins."

Neutral third parties will be used for service requests. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Professional designated driver killed by suspected drunk motorist in Quebec

AUTOMOBILE TRAGEDY The president of a volunteer driving service says the death of a Quebec woman who chauffeured inebriated partygoers home for a living is a reminder of the dangers of impaired driving.

Cecile Descoteaux of Drummondville was killed while on the job Sunday in a head-on collision caused by a suspected drunk driver.

Descoteaux's son says his mother dedicated so much of her time getting people home safely that he can't believe she may have been killed by a drunk driver.

Jasmin Lefebvre told TVA his mother died because somebody wanted to have an extra beer or two.

Police suspect the 48-year-old man who was behind the wheel of the SUV that slammed into Descoteaux's car had consumed one too many.

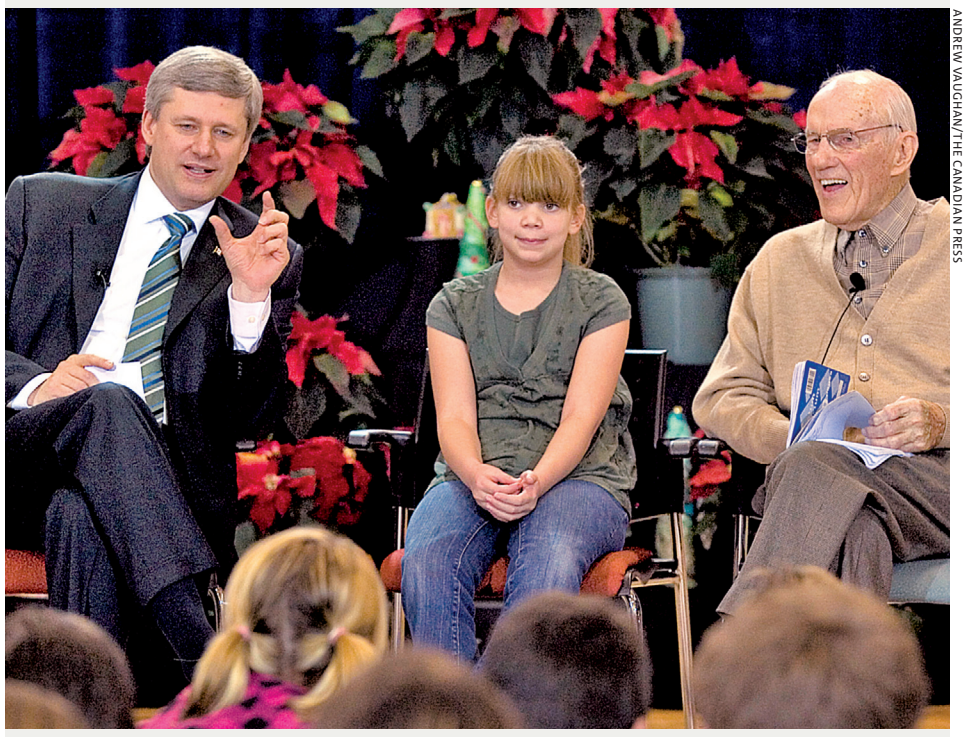
Descoteaux had operated the private chauffeur service in Drummondville for the last nine years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The numbers

- Operation Red Nose says one-third of all fatal accidents on the road are caused by drunk drivers.

New Brunswick **Remembering the sacrifice**



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper sits with Robin Noguera and Dick Cornell yesterday at an event in New Brunswick that brought Second World War veterans and kids together. Harper said the project is important because it reminds Canadians of the service veterans have given to the country.

News in brief

EDUCATION Teachers in Newfoundland and Labrador have reached a tentative contract agreement with the provincial government. The tentative deal is the latest agreement with public-sector workers that would provide annual wage increases over four years totalling 20 per cent.

BUNKER An old Cold War military bunker may soon have a new use. The Colchester Regional Development Agency has signed a deal to sell the "Diefenbunker" in Debert, N.S., to Bastionhost, a Halifax-based firm that plans to use the old bomb shelter as a computer data security centre. The bunker was completed in 1964 under prime minister John Diefenbaker as a shelter in the event of nuclear, chemical and biological fallout.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 3-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 9/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4-star Riu Lupita in the Mayan Riviera from $32 per night. Departs Jan 9/sqv/5g.

Cayo Coco 4-Star $545
Blue Bay Cayo Coco + taxes & fees $210
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 13/swg/wg.

Jamaica 3.5-Star $595
Starfish Trelawny + taxes & fees $268
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 3.5-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jan 11/swg/wg. UPGRADE to 4.5-star Rose Hall Resort from $39 per night. Departs Jan 9/sqv/5g.

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Royal National + taxes & fees $448
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Alberta seniors to be able to buy extra care

Seniors who can afford it will be able to take flat-rate funding from the government and pay out of their own pockets for extra services in the facilities of their choice under a new long-term care strategy announced by the Alberta government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

EXHUMED The remains of a Mountie murdered in the Mayerthorpe massacre have been exhumed from a grave in his Alberta hometown of Lac la Biche. Const. Leo Johnston's widow, Kelly Johnston, has been embroiled in a bitter dispute with his parents over her desire to relocate his remains to the national RCMP cemetery in Regina. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories flooded with senator seat pleas

The Conservative government is being inundated by hundreds of applicants longing to land one of the 18 Senate spots about to be filled by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The candidates are springing forward at such a sprightly pace that officials in Harper's office say they're too busy processing papers to even count how many applications they've received.

Harper says he never wanted to stack the Senate with patronage appointments and he still looks forward to the day he can turn the chamber into an elected body.

"Now I'm getting deluged," Harper said in a CTV interview yesterday. "It's not the favourite thing I've ever done — but at this point it's the right thing."

Since there is no official application form for what has traditionally been considered the cushiest job in Canadian politics, the queries are arriving in a variety of ways — via e-mail and snail-mail, on cover letters and CVs. And anecdotal evidence suggests some of the appeals have been highly personal.

One staffer says he's received an e-mail from an old high-school teacher he never even got along with and hadn't heard from in years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What it's worth

- The job in the 105-seat chamber pays $130,000 a year, members don't have to worry about getting elected, and they can keep other jobs or businesses while pulling in their Senate salary until retirement at age 75.

Accused Christmas party killer on suicide watch

CRIME A man facing murder charges in a Christmas party shooting was on suicide watch yesterday as friends and family paid glowing tribute to his alleged victim.

Those who knew Benjamin David Banky, 40, were still in shock three days after he was gunned down at his office.

Banky was CEO of TallGrass Distribution Ltd., a wholesaler of natural health products, which remained closed yesterday.

While the family tried to deal with the loss, his accused killer, Eric Kirkpatrick, 61, made a brief appearance in Vancouver court yesterday on a charge of first-degree murder.

His lawyer, Richard Fowler, told the court his client is on suicide watch.

Kirkpatrick, who has long grey hair flowing down to his shoulders and a long grey beard, was dressed in red, prison-issue coveralls. He stood quietly in the prisoner's box listening to the proceedings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Zimbabwe cholera death toll nears 1,000
The United Nations says the death toll from a cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe has risen to 978 — an increase of nearly 25 per cent in three days. The UN humanitarian office says the total number of suspected cases reported has risen to 18,413 since the start of the outbreak in August. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Kennedy to seek Hillary's seat?

A person close to discussions says Caroline Kennedy will seek the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Hillary Clinton. Kennedy has told Democratic Gov. David Paterson she wants the job should Clinton be confirmed as secretary of state for president-elect Barack Obama. If appointed by Paterson, Kennedy, the daughter of assassinated president John F. Kennedy, would hold the seat once occupied by her late uncle, Robert F. Kennedy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoe thrower hates U.S., Iranian roles in Iraq: Family

MIDDLE EAST The Iraqi TV reporter who hurled his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush was kidnapped once by militants and, separately, detained briefly by the U.S. military — a story of getting hit from all sides that is bitterly familiar to many Iraqis.

Over time, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a 28-year-old unmarried Shiite, came to hate both the U.S. military occupation and Iran's interference in Iraq, his family said yesterday.

Al-Zeidi's act of defiance Sunday transformed an obscure reporter from a minor TV station into a national hero to many Iraqis fed up with the nearly six-year U.S. presence here, but also fearful that their country will fall under Iran's influence once the Americans leave. Bush was not hit or injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel frees 224 Palestinian prisoners

POLITICS Israel released 224 Palestinian political prisoners yesterday in a gesture to moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Israel currently holds more than 8,000 Palestinians, and their fate is an emotionally charged issue on both sides.

Most Palestinians have had loved ones in prison and view the release of detainees as a test of Israel's willingness to make peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impeachment possible

The speaker of the Illinois House took the first step yesterday toward impeaching scandal-plagued Gov. Rod Blagojevich, appointing a committee to recommend whether he should be ousted after his arrest on federal corruption charges.

Once the committee makes a recommendation, the full House will formally decide whether to file impeachment charges. The Senate then would rule on the charges.

Blagojevich was arrested last week on federal fraud and bribery charges, including allegations of trying to profit from selling off the Senate seat vacated by president-elect Barack Obama.

The state constitution gives legislators broad authority to impeach a governor for any reason they consider sufficient.

The governor remains defiant and refuses to resign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich departs his home in Chicago yesterday, telling reporters he was going to work to sign a bill.

At least 40 Taliban killed in operation

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan official says a joint Afghan-NATO operation in the country's south has killed 40 Taliban militants.

Helmand governor spokesman Dawood Ahmadi said yesterday that the operation in the Nad Ali and Murja regions of Helmand began last Thursday and is still ongoing.

He said 40 militants have been killed.

The dead include Mullah Salim, the head of the Taliban's leadership council in those regions.

NATO spokesman Lt. Cmdr. James Gater confirmed a joint operation in Helmand is underway but would not release any casualty figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mozambique says half-million of its people need food aid

Mozambique's Agriculture Ministry says nearly half a million people need food aid in southern and central areas of the country because of poor rains and high prices. In a statement yesterday, the ministry said families in the affected region are getting by on one meal a day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq **Christmas away from home**

KHALID MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. soldier sits on the lap of man dressed as Santa Claus yesterday at al-Faw palace at Camp Victory at the airport in Baghdad, Iraq.

Greek youths clash with police

Youths demonstrated outside Athens' main police headquarters yesterday in the second week of violent protests over the shooting death of a teenager.

The young protesters pelted riot police with flour and other objects, while police responded with tear gas.

Some 2,000 youths at the rally blocked one of the capital's main avenues, chanted slogans and set fire to trash bins before dispersing. Two demonstrators were arrested, police said.

Greece has seen its worst riots in decades after 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos died Dec. 6 in a police shooting.

Yesterday, students also staged peaceful blockades of several busy roads in the capital, marched through the city centre and protested outside Athens' main court complex, where four people arrested during last week's riots were ordered to remain in custody.

The protests are shifting from expressing anger at police to showing general anger at the country's increasingly unpopular conservative government and the economic hardships faced by many Greeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- The riots quickly spread from Athens to more than a dozen cities last week. Youths smashed and burned stores and cars, and hurled gas bombs and rocks at riot police, who responded with stun grenades and tear gas.

U.S., Russia discuss missile shield

TALKS U.S. officials are holding talks with Russia on the divisive subject of missile defence and on other arms and security issues.

The talks in Moscow could be the last round of negotiations during the administration of President George W. Bush on U.S. plans for a European missile shield.

The U.S. says the installations in Poland and the Czech Republic would counter a potential threat from Iran. Russia claims the real aim is to weaken its nuclear deterrent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan, China launch direct shipping links

AGREEMENT A Taiwanese jetliner departed yesterday for China to open a new era of direct air and shipping services with the mainland, formally ending a nearly six-decade ban on regular links between the rivals.

The passenger flight from Taipei to China's commercial capital Shanghai came following an improvement in relations between the once-bitter rivals since Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou took office in May and moved to reverse the pro-independence policy of his predecessor, Chen Shui-bian.

China has reacted warmly, and although the mainland still claims sovereignty over the self-governed island, both have agreed to set aside thorny political disputes to focus on trade. The two sides signed a pact last month to open up the direct links.

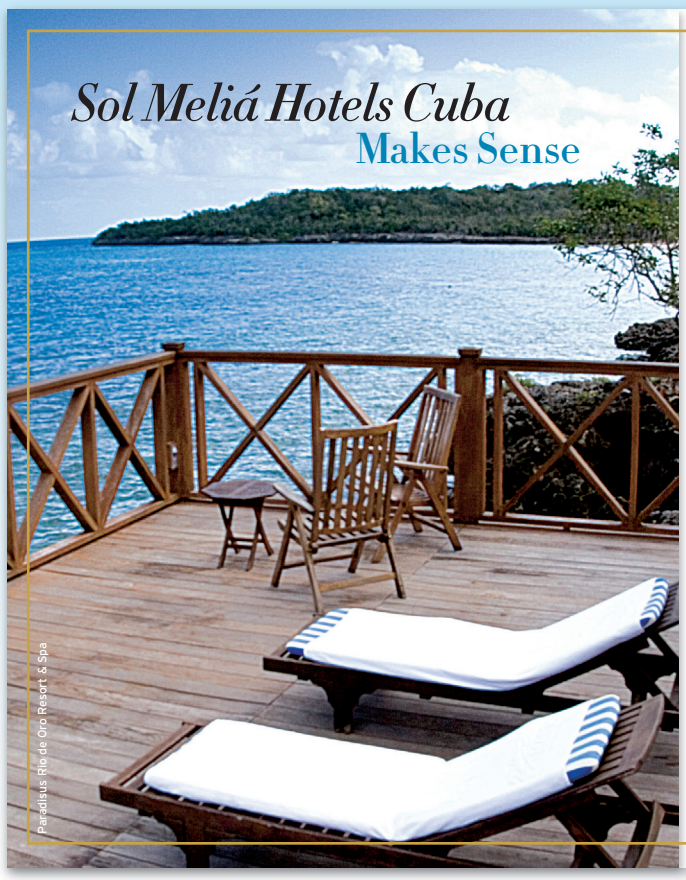
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT Australia said yesterday it plans to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by as little as 5 per cent by 2020 — a reduction that critics say undermines international efforts to reach an effective global pact next year to avert dangerous climate change.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AIR CANADA VACATIONS



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Obama aboard!
U.S. president-elect Barack Obama will kick off his inaugural celebration on Jan. 17 — the weekend before his swearing-in as the country's 44th president — by travelling on a train to the U.S. capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva speaks to reporters yesterday at Parliament in Bangkok, Thailand. Parliament chose the opposition party leader following months of political chaos.

New Thai PM selected

Abhisit Vejjajiva, a patrician 44-year-old with an Oxford education, became Thailand's prime minister yesterday amid hopes that he can calm the political storms that have battered the country for the past three years.

But untested at the pinnacle of power and said to lack decisiveness, he could face one of the roughest rides in modern Thai history.

Abhisit, who heads the former opposition Democrat party, defeated a loyalist of exiled but still powerful ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a parliamentary vote. The parliamentary contest came in the wake of mass protests by anti-Thaksin forces that included a weeklong siege of Bangkok's airports.

Now, Abhisit must try to neutralize Thaksin's supporters, who have vowed to take to the streets themselves, grapple with a dramatic economic downturn and keep intact the fragile coalition of small parties that brought him to power.

"Abhisit is untested and that is both good and bad. He has a clean record. He is well-educated, eloquent and principled so the public will likely give him a chance," says Panithan Watanayagorn, a political scientist at Bangkoks Chulalongkorn University.

"It's going to be among Thailand's roughest premierships."
Panithan Wattanayagorn, political scientist

But Panithan said Abhisit has yet to outline a bold solution to Thailand's manifold problems.

"That is his weakness and that lack of decisiveness and clear political stance could turn against him very quickly," he said. "It's going to be among Thailand's roughest premierships."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big banks duped by Madoff

BANKS The list of investors who say they were duped in one of Wall Street's biggest Ponzi schemes is growing, snaring some of the world's biggest banking institutions and hedge funds, the rich and famous, pensioners and charities.

The alleged victims who sunk cash into veteran Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff's investment pool include real estate magnate Mortimer Zuckerman, the foundation of Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, and a charity of movie director Steven Spielberg's, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Among the world's biggest banking institutions, Britain's HSBC Holdings, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Man Group, Spain's Grupo Santander, France's BNP Paribas and Japan's Nomura Holdings all reported that they had fallen victim to Madoff's alleged $50-billion US scheme.

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Are we still a colony?

National**Report**

Lawrence Martin

It isn't over yet. The Harper government's unfathomable fumble — the fiscal update fiasco — has wreaked much havoc. But more is to come.

At the moment the prorogation of Parliament happened, it looked like the Governor General and the prime minister would get a pass. The country was awash in indignation over the prospect of the Bloc Québécois being part of a new coalition government. Stephen Harper, the prime minister who granted Quebec nation status, was nevertheless able to do a brilliant job of demonizing the Bloc and framing the debate around the separatist issue.

But now that the dust is settling, a settling of accounts could be in store.

Recall what happened. In a closed-door meeting, the Governor General, at the behest of the prime minister, shut down Parliament to save him from a confidence vote and the certain defeat of his government.

It's what's known as democracy Canadian-style. Writing from Paris in The Ottawa Citizen, Keith Spicer summed up the charade as "Zimbabwe Run By The Queen." Abroad, he said, Canada is being mocked as a colony. In the Globe and Mail, Peter C. Newman called it "our recent test run as a banana republic." On the CBC, Allan Gregg invoked the Robert Mugabe comparison.

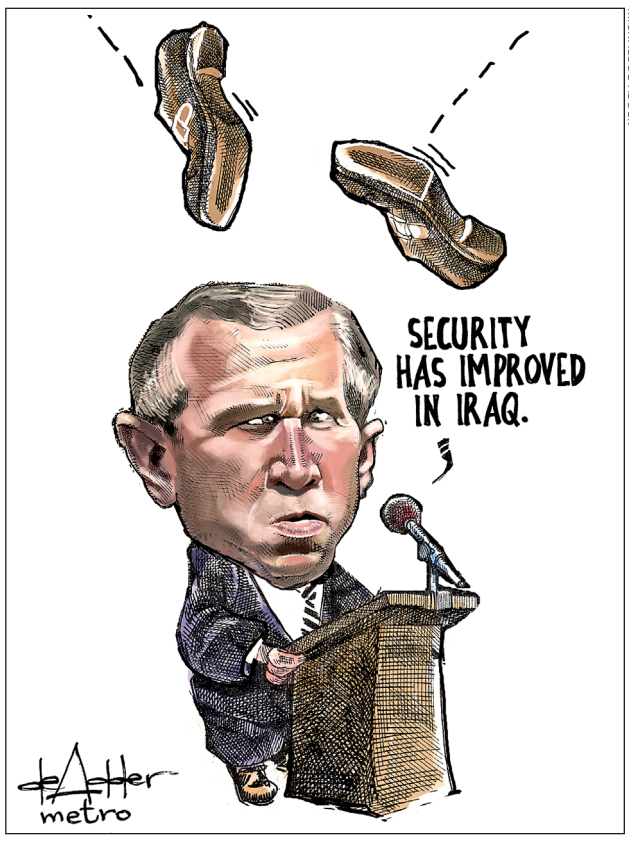
"How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever?"

They and many others wonder something. How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever? Who was in the room? What kind of pressure did Harper bring to bear? What about the suggestion that advisers for each side had basically agreed on the outcome before Harper even entered Rideau Hall that day?

As for Michaëlle Jean, she and her Monarchic ways are taking a hit. She may have made the right call on prorogation. But is she too regal to come forward and speak to her subjects about it? Are we not beyond century No. 17?

In short order, after the coming budget, she could well be making another decision of equal magnitude for the country. Her office shouldn't be allowed to treat us like a bunch of patsies bowing at the feet of her closed-door proclamations.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

The deception behind indigenous cultural preservation

Frances Widdowson & Albert Howard

In current discussions about Aboriginal policy, it is generally assumed that land claims and self-government are the best way to address native grievances and achieve social justice.

This policy direction, however, was not initiated by native people themselves; it has resulted from a long historical process, whereby non-Aboriginal missionaries, consultants, lawyers and anthropologists have proposed initiatives that act to maintain Aboriginal marginalization. This "Aboriginal Industry" thrives on Aboriginal misery because native isolation from the mainstream ensures that a large segment of the Aboriginal population will be perpetually in need of "help."

The processes advocated by the Aboriginal Industry maintain Aboriginal isolation because it encourages people to look backwards to a romanticized past rather than focusing on the future.

Aboriginal traditions, in fact, are viable only in the context of hunting and gathering or horticulture — economic systems that are much smaller, less productive and simpler in organization than those found in modern states. If Aboriginal Peoples are to enjoy a high standard of living and the choice of participating in a variety of occupations, this cannot be facilitated by revitalizing customs associated with an earlier period of human history.

"Developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address Aboriginal deprivation."

The reactionary character of these initiatives has not been recognized because Aboriginal Industry inspired research disguises the undeveloped nature of Aboriginal traditions; accusations of "racism" are then deployed to attack anyone who dares to question the deception that is being perpetrated. Developing an understanding of the actual results of indigenous cultural preservation cannot occur because intimidation and self-censorship are smothering debate.

Acknowledging the developmental difference between hunting and gathering and modern economies is also avoided because it is contrived as being demeaning to native people. The recognition that pre-contact Aboriginal cultures lacked technologies such as iron, the wheel and a written language, and that this contributed to their eventual economic and political subordination, is seen as justifying the terrible harm that resulted from colonization. But identifying the factors that have enabled one group to oppress another does not justify the result. Instead, developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address Aboriginal deprivation.

In fact, the lack of candour in discussions about Aboriginal dependency precludes the development of a strategy to address it.

Instead of investigating how government programs can be designed to encourage Aboriginal Peoples' participation in the wider society, it is now maintained that they should cultivate their own "justice," "science," and "medicine" in isolation from modern requirements.

This bolsters the diversion of funds to the Aboriginal Industry and opportunistic native leaders, while the majority of the Aboriginal population remains mired in poverty and despair.

Frances Widdowson is a faculty member in the department of policy studies at Mount Royal College, and Albert Howard is a teacher and writer. Both live in Calgary.

Letters

Invest money to create a Canadian auto industry

Why rescue the Big 3? Ford, General Motors and Chrysler are on the verge of bankruptcy.

If we are going to spend billions of dollars on the auto industry, it should be used to build our own auto manufacturing industry and use Canadian ingenuity to compete on the world stage.

As a Canadian taxpayer, I would prefer that my money be invested in starting a new, innovative auto industry rather than going to supporting jobs in the U.S.

ARCHIE MCLACHLAN, BRAMPTON

Elephants need to be protected from zoos

The new study (Dec. 12) showing that elephants die early in captivity has generated the predictable zoo industry denials. Officials in Canada and the U.S. claim the report is flawed and conditions in North American zoos today are different from those surveyed for the study.

The stark, undersized elephant exhibits in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton or in most any other Canadian or American zoo should be enough to convince anyone that things are just as bad here in North America.

North American zoo elephant populations are declining each year. Infant and adult mortality is high; social groupings are unnatural; health problems, including arthritis and obesity, are rampant; tuberculosis and herpes virus are entrenched; and abnormal behaviours are widespread.

It's clear that elephants don't need to be protected by zoos, they need to be protected from zoos.

ROB LAIDLAW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ZOOCHECK CANADA

Calling the Queen a lawn ornament called 'shameful'

Re: Let's retire the queen (Dec. 10)

Mr. Sullivan should read some Canadian and world history before he calls the Queen of Canada a lawn ornament or absurd. How pathetic and shameful.

Give respect where it is deserved. Maybe Mr. Sullivan should be an ornament in Her Majesty's office to see how wise she is, how much she really does, and how much she cares for all the citizens in her Commonwealth.

STEVEN KRELLER, VANCOUVER

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Hockey player in critical condition after fight

A Whitby Dunlops hockey player suffered a severe head injury Friday when his helmet came off and he fell to the ice during a fight. Don Sanderson, a 21-year old York University student, remains in a coma at a Hamilton hospital according to the team's website. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

"I think race was the No. 1 factor ... Out of all the coaches they interviewed, Chizik probably had the worst resumé."

Former NBA star Charles Barkley to ESPN on his alma mater, Auburn, hiring Gene Chizik as head football coach. Barkley said University of Buffalo coach and former CFL player Turner Gill, who is black, was more qualified. SOURCE: ESPN.COM

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Tiger upset by caddie's comment

GOLF Tiger Woods says he is disappointed by his caddie's disparaging comments about Phil Mickelson in New Zealand newspapers. Steve Williams was quoted as saying he wouldn't call Mickelson a great player "because I think he's a pr–k." Williams confirmed making the comment although he said he had not expected to make it into the public domain. "I was disappointed to read the comments attributed to Steve Williams about Phil Mickelson, a player that I respect," Woods said in a statement yesterday. Mickelson's management company issued a statement Sunday evening to respond to what it called "grossly inaccurate and irresponsible statements" by Williams. It included a comment from Mickelson.

"After seeing Steve Williams' comments, all I could think of was how lucky I am to have a class act like Bones (Jim Mackay) on my bag and representing me," Mickelson said.

Kings fire Reggie Theus

NBA The Sacramento Kings have fired coach Reggie Theus after a 6-18 start to his second season with the club. Assistant coach Kenny Natt will take over the Kings, spokesman Troy Hanson said. Natt is Sacramento's fourth coach in less than three years. Theus is the sixth coach fired this season following the dismissals of Oklahoma City's P.J. Carlesimo, Minnesota's Randy Wittman, Philadelphia's Maurice Cheeks, Toronto's Sam Mitchell and Washington's Eddie Jordan.

Theus

Arena league mothballs season

AFL The Arena Football League cancelled its 2009 season yesterday pending an agreement with its players union. The decision throws the future of the 22-year-old league into question.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors choke again late

Harris takes over in fourth for Nets as Carter leaves town a winner

NBA RESULT

Nets 94 **Raptors** 87

Vince Carter came back to bite the Raptors once again.

The former Raptor had 20 points and 10 rebounds, while Devin Harris scored 16 of his 20 in the fourth quarter to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 94-87 victory over Toronto last night, sending the Raptors to their second straight loss.

Chris Bosh had 17 points and nine rebounds to lead six Raptors in double figures. But horrible shooting in the fourth quarter did the Raptors in, dropping their record to 10-14.

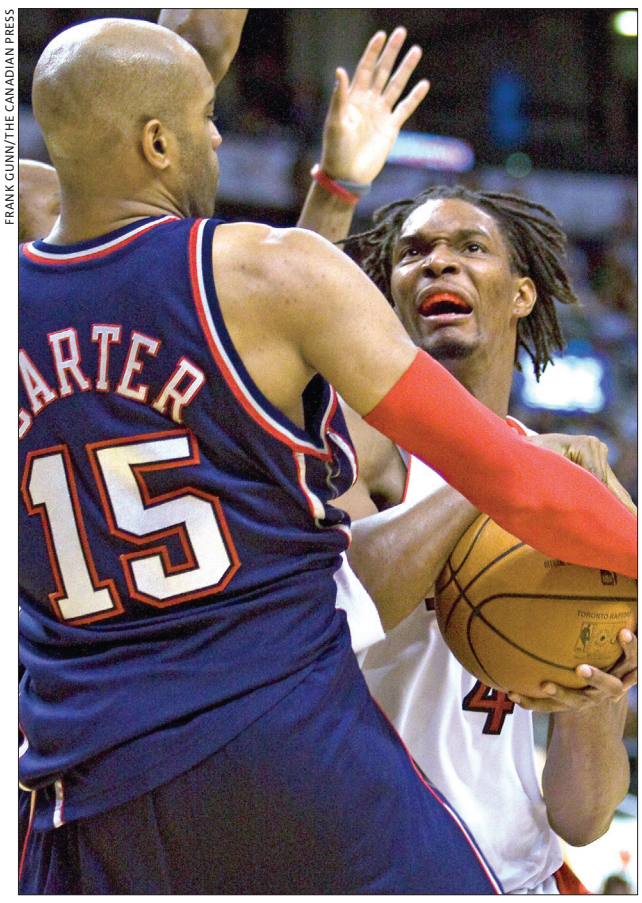
The Raptors led by as much as 14 points in the first quarter and looked poised to romp to their second consecutive dominant win over Carter and the Nets. But there was no breathing easy for Toronto as the Nets continued to chip away at the lead throughout the night.

Toronto took a 70-63 advantage into the fourth and then went up by nine on a pair of Andrea Bargnani free throws.

But that's where their shooting went cold. The Raptors missed 14 straight field goals to start the fourth, allowing the Nets to take a 12-point lead on a basket by Ryan Anderson with 2:55 left. A three by Jose Calderon with 2:35 left in the game was the first field goal for Toronto in the fourth quarter. A three by Bosh with 58 seconds left made it interesting, cutting the Nets' lead to five, but Calderon missed on a three-point attempt on Toronto's next trip down the floor to give the Nets the win.

There were some heated moments late in the third quarter when Carter and Bargnani got tangled up scrambling for a loose ball, and Bargnani sent Carter flying across the court. The tussle prompted chants of "V-C sucks!" from the Air Canada Centre crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Bosh runs into Vince Carter under the basket last night. The Raptors lost to the Nets 94-87 for their second straight defeat.

NHL Avs take out Red Wings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Colorado's Wojtek Wolski shoots around Detroit Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood for a first-period goal in Detroit last night. The Avalanche beat the Wings 3-2.

Sundin ready to decide

Former Leafs captain Mats Sundin is expected to finalize his playing future as early as tomorrow.

Sources in Sweden say his Swedish representative Claes Elefalk has told media in Stockholm to call tomorrow to learn which team Sundin has chosen to continue his NHL career with.

Sundin

That decision has been a source of both intrigue and yawns in Toronto, but the anticipation, which has been building since the Leafs dropped out of the playoff picture last April, should end certainly no later than the NHL holiday roster freeze, which begins Friday.

Sundin has ruled out both Philadelphia and Chicago. Reports say the short list is now down to Vancouver and the Rangers. Sundin visited with Rangers GM Glenn Sather this weekend and took in a Rangers game in a private box at Madison Square Garden Saturday night. Sources say Sundin has been eyeing a contender status team, and on a wish list, would like to play in a city with world-class restaurants, theatre, and culture — a wish list that New York can answer like no other city in the NHL.

The Rangers, though, also play the Leafs this season, and it's believed Sundin would rather avoid a scenario where he would face the Leafs in a new uniform. Vancouver faces the Leafs in Toronto Feb. 21 while the Rangers play a home-and-home series with the Leafs beginning Feb. 22 in New York and returning to Toronto Feb. 25. The Rangers reportedly have not offered Sundin a contract, and based on salary cap issues, that offer is expected to be far less than the Canucks, who have plenty of cap space and have offered $20 million over two seasons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Peterson announces resignation from Chiefs
Kansas City Chiefs president and general manager Carl Peterson has resigned, effective at the end of the season. During Peterson's 20 years at the helm, the Chiefs amassed a 176-141-1 record, won the AFC West four times and reached the AFC Championship game in 1993. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quinn goes with a new equation

One more blue-liner, one less forward, but fourth time a charm for Esposito

Angelo Esposito insists his trip to Team Canada's training camp has less to do with pride and more to do with winning gold.

But his pride had been pricked on three previous invitations and the Montreal Juniors star could have gone down in history as the first player to have been cut from Canada's national junior team four years in a row.

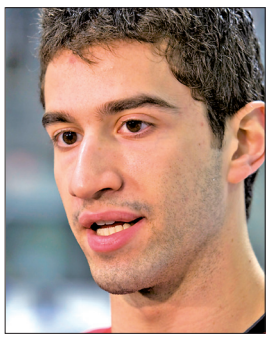
Instead, the centre bucked history and made the team's final cut.

"It's a good feeling," said Esposito, who attended the Atlanta Thrashers' training camp in September. "It was a like a three step process for me: The first was to be invited to camp. The second was to make the team and now it's to win the gold medal."

No one would have blamed Esposito had he given this camp a miss, given the once highly touted prospect had been famously among the final cuts the last two years. But Esposito didn't want to give up.

"It was a big disappointment those years," he said. "This year, I got to feel like what it feels like to make the team. It's a great feeling.

"Growing up I always watched the world juniors. I always wanted to be part of this team. It's an honour to play for team Canada any time. To win the gold medal, that's what I'm here for."


Angelo Esposito was named to the junior team on his fourth try.

If Esposito bucked history, then Chris DiDomenico of Woodbridge bucked the odds.

DiDomenico was on no-one's radar when he went untouched in the OHL draft in 2006, but blossomed into one of the top scorers in the QMJHL over the past two and a half seasons.

Drafted in the seventh round by the Toronto Maple Leaf in 2007, DiDomenico made the national junior team in what's a sizeable contingent from the GTA.

Others from the Toronto area include, of course, Oshawa star John Tavares who was born in Oakville; Markham's Cody Hodgson, now with the Brampton Battalion; Stefan Della Rovere of Maple, now with the Barrie Colts; defenceman Alex Pieterangelo of King City, now with Niagara; and Oakville's Cody Goloubef, a defenceman at Wisconsin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADRIAN WYLD
Team Canada's Chris DiDomenico of Woodbridge speaks on a cellphone following the official World Junior Hockey team photograph in Ottawa yesterday.

Only four players return from the team that won gold last year: Tavares, Zach Boychuk of the Lethbridge Hurricanes, defenceman P.K. Subban of the Belleville Bulls and defenceman Thomas Hickey of the Seattle Thunderbirds.

Hickey, the 19-year-old drafted fourth overall in 2007 by the L.A. Kings, was named team captain. Hickey has six goals, 12 assists for Seattle.

Tavares, Boychuk, Subban and Hodgson are the alternates.

Tavares will be expected to lead Canada's offence. The Oshawa Generals forward has 25 goals, 27 assists and a plus-8 rating over his 31 games in the OHL this season. Tavares is eligible for the 2009 NHL Entry Draft.

In a break from tradition, coach Pat Quinn named eight defenceman and 12 forwards. The team usually carries seven defenceman and 13 forwards, in addition to two goalies.

Canada goes for a fifth straight gold medal, opening the tournament Dec. 26 versus the Czech Republic in Ottawa.

Chet Pickard of the TriCity Americans and Spokane's Dustin Tokarski will handle the netminding duties.

The remaining forwards: Tyler Ennis, Jamie Benn, Patrice Cormier, Jordan Eberle, Brett Sonne and Dana Tyrell.

The remaining defencemen: Ryan Ellis, Keith Aulie, Tyler Myers and Colten Teubert.

Brayden Schenn, the younger brother of Toronto Maple Leaf defenceman Luke Schenn, was among those cut yesterday.

Also cut: goaltenders Tyson Sexsmith and Jake Allen, defencemen Travis Hamonic, Kevin Marshall, Patrick Wiercioch, Jared Spurgeon, Brendan Smith and Tyler Cuma, plus forwards Evander Kane, Riley Nash, Jamie Arniel, Nazem Kadri, Matt Duchene, Taylor Hall and Matt Calvert. Cuma (knee) and Calvert (back) were injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2009 Juniors

Goalies

- Chet Pickard, Dustin Tokarski

Defencemen

- Keith Aulie, Ryan Ellis, Cody Goloubef, Thomas Hickey, Tyler Myers, Alex Pietrangelo, P.K. Subban, Colten Teubert.

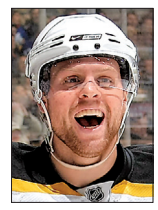
Forwards

- Jamie Benn, Zach Boychuk, Patrice Cormier, Stefan Della Rovere, Chris DiDomenico, Jordan Eberle, Tyler Ennis, Angelo Esposito, Cody Hodgson, Brett Sonne, John Tavares, Dana Tyrell.

Kessel named first star of week

NHL Phil Kessel just keeps on scoring and the NHL has taken notice.

The Boston Bruins winger was named the league's first star of the week yesterday after scoring three goals and eight points during four games. Kessel has points in 15 straight games for the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins. It's the best run of the 21-year-old's career.


Kessel

Pittsburgh Penguins forward Petr Sykora was named the NHL's second star of the week while Buffalo Sabres winger Thomas Vanek was given the third star. Sykora also had eight points in four games, including the first hat trick of his career during a 9-2 victory over the New York Islanders.

Vanek scored a league-leading five goals last week as the Sabres won three of four games. He leads the NHL with 24 goals this season.

Jauron expects to return to Bills

NFL Buffalo Bills coach Dick Jauron anticipates he'll be back next season despite overseeing a massive meltdown in which Buffalo has lost seven of its past eight and been knocked out of playoff contention.

Jauron, the target of a growing amount of criticism for the team's slide, answered questions about his future for the yesterday, a day after the Bills bumbled away a 31-27 loss to the New York Jets.

Jauron declined to say why he anticipates he'll return or indicate whether he has signed a contract extension, which would be necessary considering the coach is ending the final season of his three-year deal.

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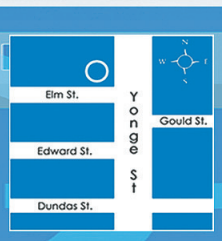

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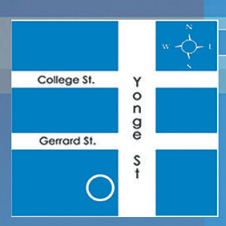

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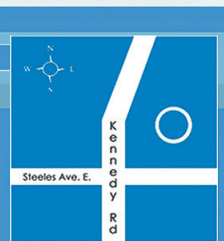

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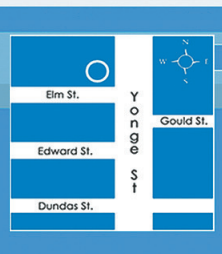

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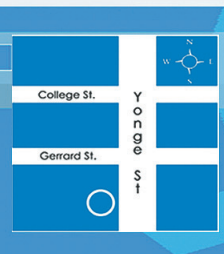

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Rooney won't be disciplined: UEFA

UEFA will not take disciplinary action against Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney over allegations he stomped on Aalborg's Kasper Risgard in a Champions League game last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NBA D'Antoni, Nash catch up

PAUL CONNORS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni, left, is greeted by his former MVP Steve Nash before the Knicks/Suns game last night in Phoenix. For a complete recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

Tall on leadership

Two tall Russian guys have helped the Leafs fill one of the key voids left by former captain Mats Sundin — leadership.

Nik Antropov and Alex Ponikarovsky — two of the tallest players the Leafs have — are handling unsung chores like smoothing out communication bugs with mostly Russian speaking rookies Mikhail Grabovski and Nik Kulemin.

Sundin is expected to make his playing intentions known as early as tomorrow, and definitely this week, but his absence, especially the dynamic of his unchallenged role as the Leafs leader for the past 14 seasons, hasn't left any glaring leadership weaknesses within the Leafs playing group.

Antropov and Ponikarovsky, as the two longest serving Leafs next to Tomas Kaberle, marked a perfect solution to the Sundin void, especially when it comes Grabovski and Kulemin.

The two wingers, who have grown into close friends over the past eight seasons, have already adapted to their new roles as media ambassadors when it comes time for interviews with the two Russian rookies.

A perfect example of a more important leadership dynamic came during Friday's game, when Leafs coach Ron Wilson put Kulemin on the top line with Antropov and Matt Stajan, and swapped Ponikarovsky into Kulemin's former spot with Grabovski and Lee Stempniak.

Wilson mentioned Antropov yesterday as one of the key factors in swapping Kulemin and Ponikarovsky.

In his rookie season, Kulemin has so far posted six goals and 12 points in 29 games. He ranks 13th in overall rookie scoring and ninth in goals.

While those numbers are mostly respectable, Wilson, like most other observers, noticed the Kulemin-Grabovski line wasn't as threatening with the loss of Nik Hagman last week (concussion). Kulemin showed a marked improvement when he was put on the Antropov line in the third period Friday in Buffalo when the Leafs posted a 2-1 comeback win over the Sabres.

"He struggles some nights," Wilson said of Kulemin, in context to explaining the barriers a Russian speaking rookie faces in the NHL.

"We talk to him … it's a different environment and he doesn't speak English very well right now. We have Nik and Pony (Ponikarovsky) there to help, and Nik's done a great job (with Kulemin), and that's why I put Kulemin on that line."

Ponikarovsky, over his career, has seen his best results alongside Antropov. The two were Sundin's linemates for much of last year, and while the Leafs as a whole were obviously a non-playoff team, Sundin did post 32 goals and 78 points — his highest goals output in five seasons and highest points in six. This season, Ponikarovsky has often been involved in line shuffles. Part of that has to do with Wilson's search for better line chemistry, but Ponikarovsky is also a good fit on any of the top three lines because of his size, shot, and experience.

"I might be there (with Grabovski) just because I'm a bigger guy and it might help, and that's good," Ponikarovsky said.

The Leafs remain without a captain, although that dynamic has been handled by Kaberle and Antropov, and to a lesser degree, Pavel Kubina and Dominic Moore.

Ironically, Kaberle, Antropov, Kubina, and Ponikarovsky are the subject of trade speculation, either this season, or over the summer.

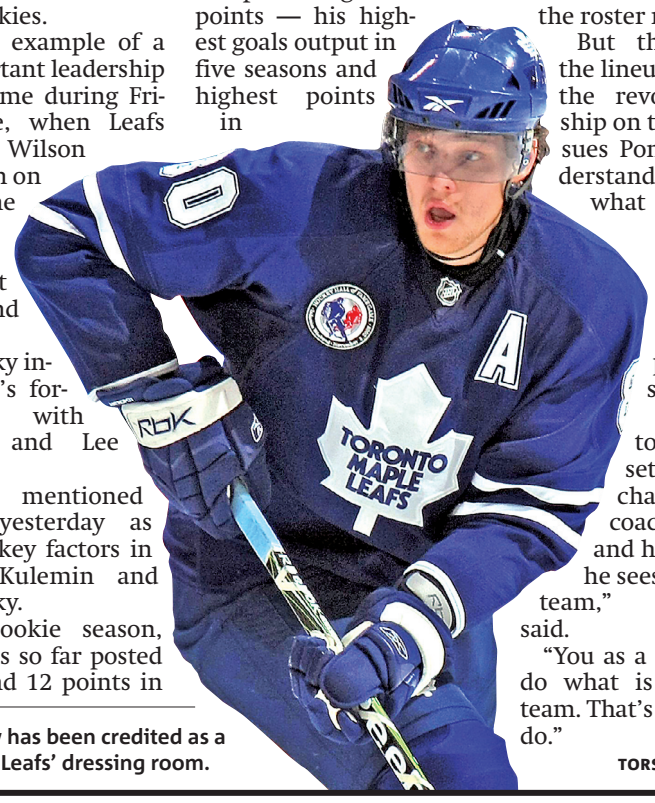
There is a certain dismay in the dressing room over what many believe is a certain, looming change to the roster makeup.

But those changes, the lineup shuffles, and the revolving leadership on the team are issues Ponikarovsky understands as part of what the organization is attempting to do to bring the team out of a three-year playoff absence.

"You'd prefer to play (with a set line), but line changes are the coach's decision and he's doing what he sees is best for the team," Ponikarovsky said.

"You as a player have to do what is best for the team. That's what I want to do."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Nik Antropov has been credited as a leader in the Leafs' dressing room.

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Atlanta 83 Charlotte 79
Indiana 118 Washington 98
Boston 100 Utah 91
Milwaukee 98 Miami 83
Denver at Dallas
New York at Phoenix
Minnesota at Sacramento
Orlando at Golden State

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Chicago at Charlotte
New Orleans at Memphis
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City
Denver at Houston
Sacramento at Portland
New York at L.A. Lakers

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Colorado 3 Detroit 2
San Jose at Los Angeles

TONIGHT'S GAMES

New Jersey at **TORONTO**
Washington at N.Y. Islanders
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YESTERDAY'S RESULT

Cleveland at Philadelphia

WEEK 16

THURSDAY'S GAME

Indianapolis at Jacksonville

SATURDAY'S GAME

Baltimore at Dallas

SUNDAY'S GAMES

New Orleans at Detroit
Pittsburgh at Tennessee
Miami at Kansas City
Arizona at New England
San Francisco at St. Louis
San Diego at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Cleveland
N.Y. Jets at Seattle
Houston at Oakland
Buffalo at Denver
Atlanta at Minnesota
Philadelphia at Washington
Carolina at N.Y. Giants

MONDAY, DEC. 22 GAME

Green Bay at Chicago

Canadian holiday retail sales resilient: Observers
The Canadian holiday shopping season was widely expected to be a bust, but deep discounts have kept shoppers scouring the malls for deals and spending more money than the industry expected, analysts say. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Condo crash warning

Overheated market due for correction: Expert

A Toronto housing economist is warning of a "substantial correction" in the city's overheated condominium market.

The warning comes on the heels of figures released yesterday by the Canadian Real Estate Association that show existing home sales for November were down by 12.3 per cent on a month over month basis, and a far steeper 42 per cent compared to November 2007.

Resale homes

- In cities such as Toronto, sales of existing homes plunged by 50 per cent in November, the biggest decline since April 1989 when sales dropped to 54 per cent.

The average price of a home was down by 9.8 per cent from a year ago.

Economist Will Dunning estimates by the end of September, there were 33,919 condos under construction in the Toronto area. Analysts say 30 to 50 per cent of sales in some buildings have gone to investors, and some of them seem set to exit the market.

As a result, the number of condos listed for sale in the central Toronto area is already up by a stunning 75 per cent in November compared to a year earlier, according to Dunning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ballard benefits from auto meltdown

PLATINUM Fuel cell pioneer Ballard Power, having abandoned its focus on the hydrogen car, is unexpectedly benefiting from a global decline in vehicle sales because of the fall in the price of platinum.

The precious metal is used to make catalytic converters that control vehicle emissions, and it's a key ingredient in the production of fuel cells. A drop in demand for catalytic converters have created a surplus in platinum.

Last week platinum fell below the price of gold for the first time in 12 years. Platinum yesterday was at $839.20, down 64 per cent from its high in March.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

CREDIT CARDS Senator Pierrette Ringuette from New Brunswick is vowing to reintroduce a motion to probe Canada's credit card and debit card systems, including the thorny issue of regulating interest rates and fees.

RETAILER The Forzani Group, the owner of Sport Chek, Athletes World, Nevada Bobs and other chains, says its employees are now working on salary, instead of commission, to improve the customers' experience. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

On bended knee, wallet open

SmartCookies

smartcookies.com

Believe it or not, December is the most popular time for wedding proposals. This month, men everywhere will talk to protective parents, kiss their single life goodbye and commit to thousands of dollars on an engagement ring.

So for all of you out there contemplating martial bliss, we know you have a lot of questions and are probably looking for some ways to keep your costs down. And trust us when we say skimping on the ring is not your best option.

Here are a few ways to help you stretch your dollar before you pop the question:

A Diamond is a Diamond, whether it's from Tiffany or Costco

The first step in choosing a diamond is having a clear understanding of the quality factors, commonly referred to as the "4C's": Colour, clarity, cut and carat.

Once you determine the combination that is right for you, we suggest you skip the brand-name. The only difference in a brand-name diamond is the label and the price tag — which can be up to 50 per cent more! And let's be honest, most of the women we know would rather have a bigger rock over a ritzy designer.

Ask for a Discount for Paying Cash

Depending on the profit margin, many jewellers will be willing to sell you your diamond at a lower price to avoid having to deal with fees from credit card companies.

Buying Rings as a Set Can Save Money

Often if you purchase your engagement ring and wedding ring as a set, you can save.

White Gold Looks like Platinum but Is Less Expensive

If you are looking for silver-tone jewelry but don't want to pay platinum prices, consider a ring made of white gold. Not only is white gold less expensive, but it is actually harder to scratch and damage.

Something to be Said for Sentiment

If either you or your partner has a family heirloom, antique jewelry from a loved one can be some of the most beautiful and sentimental. But if it isn't exactly what you had in mind, consider personalizing it by upgrading the diamond or band. You will still likely save money in the long run.

How Much Should You Really Spend?

Spend what you feel comfortable with. Resist the pressure from advertisers who imply that if you are not spending between one to three month's salary, you don't love your honey. Spend less, spend more, spend what YOU want. Just bear in mind this ring will be with you for a lifetime.

If you are looking for more money-saving tips, contact us at smartcookies@metronews.ca or visit smartcookies.com.

And check out our book, now available at bookstores everywhere: Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column poses the question: Should you borrow to invest now? Visit metronews.ca

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Dickens: Financial adviser?

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q Last month, our company went to a four-day work week. My wife continues to work but we could run into some problems sooner than later. Would a financial adviser help with our concerns? Sondeep

A Having a good financial advisor on your side is always good, particularly in these economic times. Set a time to see one.

Don't be Scrooge but instead learn from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The irony is that Dickens' initial inspiration to write this classic was his need to get out of debt.

Christmas Past

Some things, once broken, cannot be mended. Fortunately, credit is not one of them. Pull your credit and review carefully. Have the credit bureau correct any errors and negotiate to pay off judgments.

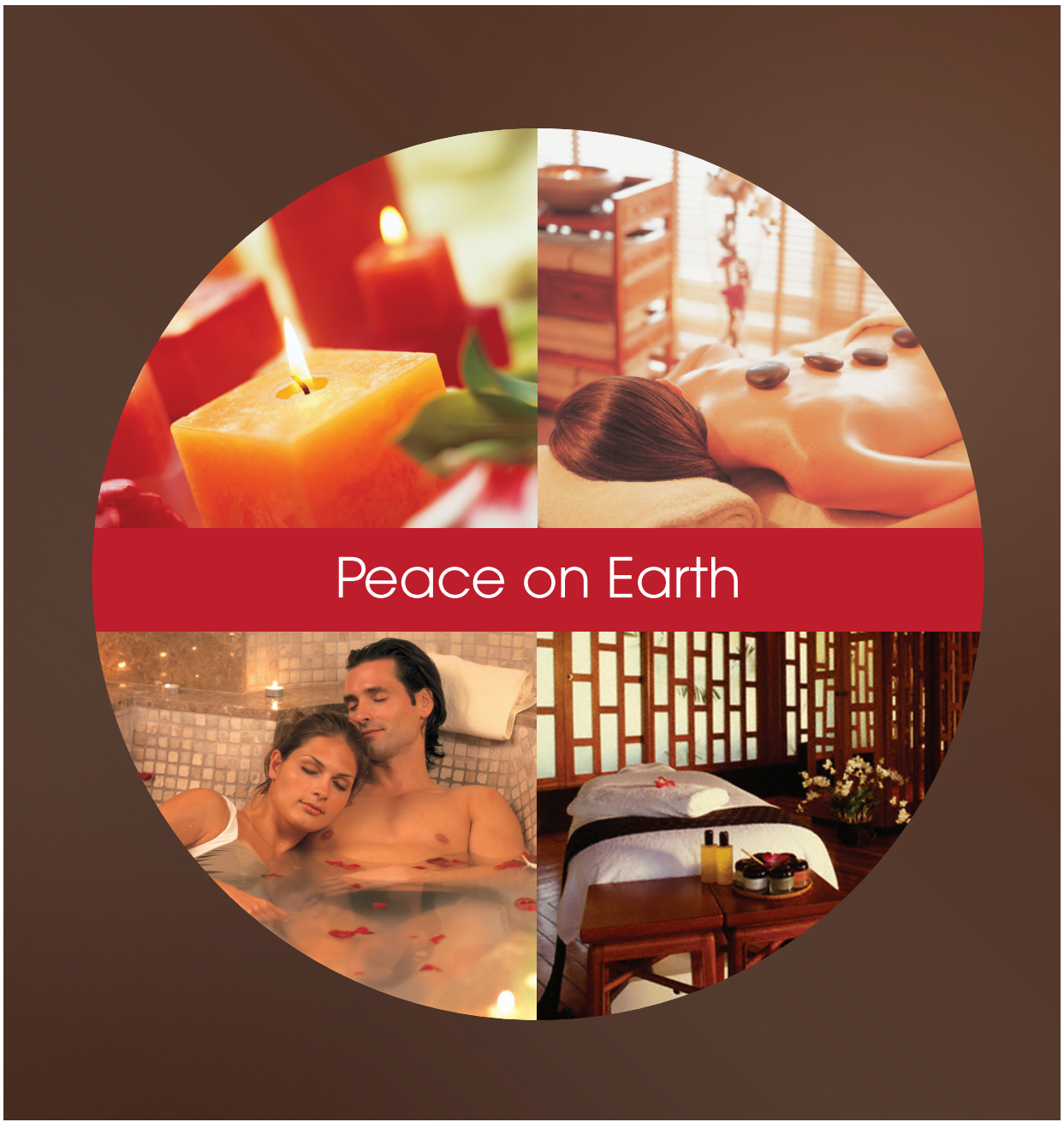
Christmas Present

Plan now for the future. Create a household budget and stick to it. Pay all your bills on time, payments should not mimic the stock market.

Christmas Yet to Come

The steps you take now will have a direct impact on your financial future. Don't forget George Orwell's famous quote: "Who controls the past, controls the future: Who controls the present controls the past."

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.



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University of Toronto leads in TVO Best Lecturer nominations
TVO has narrowed down the contenders in its 2009 Big Ideas Best Lecture Competition from 125 professors to 20. The University of Toronto is leading with eight nominees from its three campuses. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Fake degrees
The Toronto Star recently investigated a phony degree ring run by a York University graduate, whose forgeries appear authentic. According to the Star's investigation, the student charges $3,000 for most degrees. The fake-degree market is a billion-dollar industry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Out with the old, in with the $

He says he's no expert, but Warren Hales has a knack for spotting valuables

Small Business

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

While most entrepreneurs try to sell something new, Warren Hales is happy helping people get top dollar for their old furniture.

Hales, 44, is the entrepreneur and owner of Around the Bend, a consignment store specializing in antique furniture in the heart of Toronto's Avenue Road neighbourhood. People bring their antiques to the store to have them evaluated by Hales and then put up for sale inside the store — Hales takes a small cut of the final price and clients take home the rest.

The store, opened four months ago, is self-funded by Hales and represents more than a decade of his own experience in the cataloguing, buying and selling of antiques. Hales says the key to mastering antiques is rooted in research and study.

"You have to have strong research skills and a really good sense of what the market needs and what things will sell for. I hesitate to call myself an expert though — there's just so much out there to see," Hales said.

Hales worked as a commercial photographer before getting into the consignment business almost by accident. He was living above a consignment shop and started working there part time. Before long, he realized he had a real knack for spotting materials and other crucial crafting details. He also enjoyed hearing the stories behind each item, since by definition any antique has been a part of people's lives for a long time.

"Everyone has a story to tell."
Warren Hales

"Every piece that comes in has a sentimental value because it's coming from people's homes, and people open up their lives to you. Everyone has a story to tell," Hales said.

When it comes to buying and selling antiques, Hales says trust is key because of the subjective factors involved in evaluating many antique pieces.

"There is a large element of trust involved. It is absolutely crucial we are trusted by our customers," he said.

The trickiest part, Hales says, is finding the right price to make both sides in a transaction happy.

"I want to get to that median where the customers who are buying from us are happy with the prices they pay and the clients consigning with us are happy with the prices they get," Hales said.

Hales admits that part of the fun of antiques is finding an heirloom or antique that is surprisingly valuable despite having languished in a closet for years. The other part is dealing with furniture that is truly worth owning and keeping for generations. Sitting at an exquisite oak desk, Hales points to a set of 200-pound solid wood dressers.

"If there's a nuclear war, those dressers will survive. That's where the bugs will live," he joked.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Warren Hales, owner of the Around the Bend consignment store, holds one of his antiques.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Warren Hales says one of the trickiest parts of consignment is making both the buyer and the seller happy. He tries to do so at his store Around the Bend in the Avenue Road neighbourhood.

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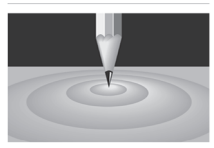

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Possible $6-million deficit at Lakehead

Lakehead University may have a $6.3-million deficit in its May 2009 budget should there be no increases in income, and if expenses remain at current levels. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canadians becoming fond of gap-year travel

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

A U.K. tradition, travelling after high school, is becoming more popular in Canada.

The idea of a gap year after high school seems to have finally made its way across the pond to Canada.

Emma Roche, a high school teacher at Toronto's Royal St. George's College, says since the elimination of a fifth year of high school in Ontario (Grade 13 or OAC) many students are choosing to take a year before college or university to study, volunteer or travel abroad.

While this is something students in the U.K. have done for decades, Canadians have tended to save their travel year until after post-secondary school or leave it out altogether.

Roche says, however, the world is becoming a smaller place and more and more students are looking to get involved and somehow make a difference earlier on in their education.

"I did some international travel myself and I think it's such a great opportunity for learning," she said.

Some organizations promote opportunities such as conservation projects in South Africa, service trips to the Dominican Republic and Habitat for Humanity projects in Cambodia. The organizations offer credit courses, some help students fulfill volunteer hours and others simply offer a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience.

Summers on Ice for example, is a company that gives students the opportunity to travel to and work in Antarctica, Roche said.

And although the trips can get expensive, many of the organizations offer scholarships or educate students on how to raise funds to pay their way.

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GATEWAY NEWSTANDS

Downturn in economy hurting holiday perks

Scrooge-like economy got you down? You're not alone. The ripple effects of the economic downturn are being felt by workers across the office this holiday season as companies cut back on costly end-of-the-year perks like bonuses, gifts and parties.

This is according to a recent CareerBuilder.com survey conducted among more than 3,000 hiring managers and HR professionals.

This holiday season, employers are acting more cautious than in past years when it comes to their fourth-quarter giving:

• **BONUSES:** One-third (34 per cent) of employers planning to give holiday bonuses say they will pay out the same amounts or less on holiday bonuses this year than in past years. Of those employers who plan to decrease bonuses, more than half (54 per cent) plan to decrease bonuses by up to 10 per cent; 74 per cent will lower them up to 25 per cent.

• **GIFTS:** One-third (29 per cent) of employers planning to give holiday gifts say they will spend the same amount or less on holiday gifts for workers this year than in past years.

• **PARTIES:** Seventeen per cent of employers plan to cut back on holiday celebrations this year, either having a party on a smaller scale or cancelling it altogether.

Many companies are cutting back on holiday perks this year according to a recent survey.

"The current economic state and its repercussions may be causing anxiety in the office, but it is important for employees to try to remain positive," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of human resources for CareerBuilder.com. "Cost-cutting on bonuses, parties and other holiday perks is often a cautionary measure in challenging times. Employers are doing their best to clearly communicate cutbacks to employees to ensure the reasons behind trimming are understood by all levels within the organization."

> **"It is important for employees to try to remain positive."**
> CareerBuilder's Rosemary Haefner

Haefner offers the following advice for workers encountering holiday cutbacks:

• **FACTOR POSSIBLE CUTBACKS INTO YOUR BUDGET:** If you're anticipating a bonus this season, be sure to budget accordingly so that you can handle your financial obligations if your bonus is eliminated.

• **DONATE YOUR TIME:** While companies may not have the budgets to throw a holiday party this year, employees can suggest charity work as an alternative. That way, co-workers can get into the holiday spirit by helping others and giving back to their community.

• **MAKE CONNECTIONS:** Use the time you would have spent at a holiday party to attend a local professional networking event or seminar with a few colleagues. By doing so, you can build your professional network and socialize at the same time.

• **DON'T LOSE YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT:** Even if your company holiday party is cancelled, it doesn't mean that you can't celebrate the season with co-workers. Plan a low-key celebration in the office such as a potluck, or set up a gathering outside of work for your own holiday party.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Reward dry, tired fingers
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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Women don't stress over sexual problems: Survey

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Only 12 per cent of women are worried or embarrassed by a sexual problem, a recent survey suggests.

SEXUALITY Women seem to take sexual difficulties in stride. That is the conclusion of a survey of 31,000 U.S. women. Almost half of the women reported they suffered from problems with desire, arousal or orgasm. But only 12 per cent of are worried, frustrated or embarrassed by a sexual problem.

Distressing sexual problems were most common in women between the ages of 45 and 64. Women younger than 45 or older than 64 may have difficulties, but they are not as worried about them, the survey found. The researchers' main conclusion was that sexual problems are quite common in women, and that those who are distressed by them should seek medical help. Results of the study were published in the November 2008 issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

A cool workout

Snowshoeing is a low-impact, accessible winter exercise

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Finding it tough to exercise in the winter? Snowshoeing is a very accessible form of physical activity.

All you need are a pair of snowshoes and some snow to enjoy this wonderful form of exercise. According to sports medicine expert Dr. Declan Connolly of the University of Vermont, "Snowshoeing is an effective, low impact, and safe form of exercise to change body composition. It burns up to twice the number of calories as walking at the same speed."

"Snowshoeing is an effective, low impact, and safe form of exercise to change body composition."
Sports medicine expert Dr. Declan Connolly

Snowshoes these days are made with light-weight metal frames and high-tech webbing, and are specifically designed for men, women or children. They generally cost anywhere from $80 to $300.

Most people like to snowshoe with ski poles for support, but it is not absolutely necessary.

You can snowshoe in your local park, or go further afield into snowy forests and meadows. You can snowshoe for 20 minutes, or take off on an all-day hike with a backpack full of lunch, healthy snacks and water for rehydrating. The best fun is snowshoeing with other people. Snowshoeing allows you access to places unreachable on skis or snowboards, and it's much cheaper!

If you get really good at this sport and have the stamina, you can run on snowshoes. The average man can burn 1,030 calories and the average women can burn about 700 calories an hour running with snowshoes.

Snowshoes are available at most sports stores.

The Crescent Moon Gold Series snowshoes, available in Canada at the Forzani group of stores, are being promoted as the most athletic snowshoe on the market; weighing only about four lbs.

ISTOCK PHOTO

Make exercise fun by teaming up with a friend for snowshoeing. You can venture out into your local park or into a snowy forest.

Health/Beauty in brief

STRANGE BUT TRUE
The stories of people who turn grey overnight are actually rare cases of sudden hair loss (which is related to a condition known as alopecia areata) that may leave only the more resistant grey hairs rooted in the scalp.
BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

HAIR'S STEM CELLS
The abundant supply of stem cells that are in the hair bulb may one day be harnessed for a wide range of regenerative treatments, from wound healing to nerve repair.
BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Water is Canadians' favourite beverage: Survey

Canadians are fortunate indeed to have water, water everywhere, as a study by Statistics Canada finds that it's the beverage consumed by the highest percentage of people, and in the greatest quantities.

Beverage consumption was among the questions asked in 2004 by the Canadian Community Health Survey on nutrition and an article that pulled all the data together was released recently. Respondents had been asked to list all their food and drink consumed in a 24-hour period.

Children aged four and up and adults under the age of 30 get about 20 per cent of their daily intake of calories from beverages, according to the findings.

Drinks comprise 30 per cent of the calorie intake for youngsters aged one to three. But, as the population ages, fewer calories are derived from beverages. Those aged 71 and older get only about 12 per cent of their calories from drinks, the study says.

Milk makes up almost half of the beverages consumed by children aged one to three, with about 88 per cent of children in this age group drinking milk on any given day.

But, as kids get older and well into the teens, they reduce their intake of milk and fruit juice and increase their intake of soft drinks and fruit-flavoured drinks containing less than 100 per cent juice.

"They usually replace milk and fruit juice by soft drinks and fruit drinks, so they're lacking the nutrients that are available in milk and in fruit juice, like vitamin C, vitamin D and calcium," Statistics Canada senior analyst Didier Garriguet said from Ottawa.

"So that's the biggest concern."

On any given day, 53 per cent of boys and 35 per cent of girls aged 14 to 18 had regular soft drinks, the findings indicate.

In a 24-hour period before the interviews were conducted, 77 per cent of men and 84 per cent of women aged 19 to 30 drank water, consuming averages of 1.36 litres and almost 1.2 litres respectively.

After water, milk was the No. 2 beverage, consumed by 49 per cent of men and 54 per cent of women aged 19 to 30 drank water, consuming averages of 1.36 litres and almost 1.2 litres respectively.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

After water, milk was the No. 2 beverage consumed in a Statistics Canada study.

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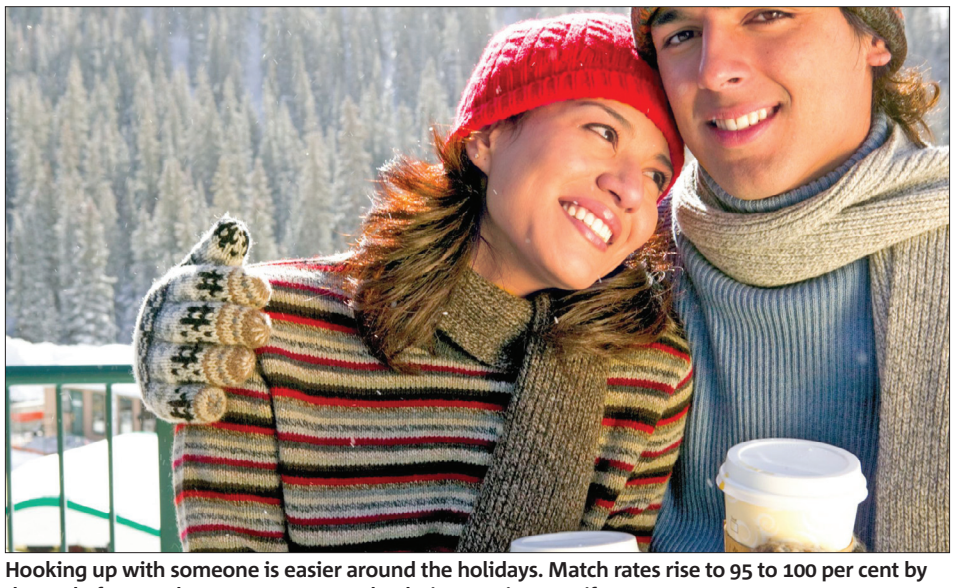
Hook ups peak over the holidays

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey



Hooking up with someone is easier around the holidays. Match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent by the end of November, a recent survey by dating service FastLife.ca suggests.

Seems presents aren't the only things people are shopping for in the holiday rush. According to a recent study from speed dating service FastLife.ca, hook ups peak in the period leading up to the holidays.

In the last three years, FastLife noticed that speed-dating match rates hover around 82 per cent on average from January to October, but by the end of November match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent where they remain until the new year.

I realize it's in their interest to encourage hook ups, but it makes sense. With all the parties and family get-togethers at this time of year we all want someone to smooch under the mistletoe or to get a misguided gift from.

And, as Gabriela Asenjo, FastLife's events manager, says, "people let their guard down more easily and are less picky at pre-Christmas events."

But, while it may be easy as shooting fish in a barrel to hook up with someone who will (theoretically, at least) help ease that lonesome feeling through the holidays, actually surviving the holidays together might prove to be a little more challenging.

Take this quiz to see if your relationship will make it:

1. You bring your date to your office party:

a) You can't have fun because you've constantly got your eye on your date fearing he's telling your colleagues about how the CIA covered up his alien abduction.

b) Your colleagues go on and on the next day about what a catch your date is.

c) At the end of the night, you find your date under your desk making out with your boss.

2. Your date's idea of a great Christmas gift is:

a) His and hers matching door-stoppers.

b) A romantic weekend away and a tasteful nude self-portrait.

c) Waiting until after Christmas "when everything's on sale" to get your gift.

3. One of you isn't Christian. How do you celebrate the holidays?

a) Say you'd be happy to celebrate Christmas, if afterwards, your honey agrees to a week-long Bhuddist retreat where you chant for eight hours a day.

b) Light the menorah and spin the dreidel before exchanging gifts under the Christmas tree.

c) Tell your date to deal, you're not about to let a little thing like someone's religion spoil your holiday.

4. Your mom gives your date a really ugly sweater as a gift. You:

a) Force your sweetie to wear it and then giggle maniacally.

b) Wear it to bed with him…with nothing on underneath.

c) Come across it later in a bucket full of rags your date uses to clean the floor.

5. An ex gives your date an expensive present:

a) Tell the ex you bought your date the same thing but took it back because you thought it was tacky.

b) Call up the ex to say thank you for the gift, and send an invite for dinner.

c) "Accidentally" trip over it and break it.

If you answered mostly a's, put on your helmets, hide all sharp objects and you might make it.

If you answered mostly b's, dust off your copy of It's a Wonderful Life and warm up some rum and cider. You guys will make everyone sick with your holiday bliss.

If you answered mostly c's, there's still time to end things before you blow a wad of cash on him or her.

Happy Holidays and good luck!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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With this ring I pledge...

Trendy accessory symbolizes teen purity

The gold ring on the finger of 14-year-old Alicia Henderson isn't your average bauble. It's a daily reminder of her decision to not have sex until marriage.

PETER KRAMER/AP PHOTO

Singer Miley Cyrus is one of the teen celebrities toting a purity ring, a new trend where teens who don't believe in premarital sex wear the accessory as a symbol.

The band, a childhood gift from her grandparents, will stay on her left ring finger until a wedding ring takes its place, Alicia says.

It's a purity ring — also called promise or chastity ring — the "it" accessory for a new generation of teens who don't believe in premarital sex.

"I was raised to believe that sex should be between a married wife and husband, not between teens as a source of entertainment, as it is now," explains Alicia, a student at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School in Caledon, Ont.

Would a future boyfriend make a difference? "I really don't think I'll change my mind," she says emphatically. Like drinking, smoking and drugs, premarital sex "just isn't something I'd do."

Christian groups in the U.S. created the rings more than 10 years ago, and thousands of American teens have bought purity rings — and taken the requisite vow of abstinence. The unisex trinkets only recently reached the mainstream, thanks to ring-toting tween celebrities such as the Jonas Brothers and Miley Cyrus.

The trend is migrating to Canada but "it's not as big up here," says Anny Kazanjian, North American spokesperson for Birks.

While the jewelry company sells an array of teen-accessible silver pieces, she says, "It's not like we have a particular line of rings we're marketing in that manner."

For now, Canadians set on expressing their values through jewelry have to order rings online — or, like Alicia, use an "unofficial" ring.

In many cases, parents are the ones who buy purity rings for their kids, especially their daughters. For that reason, critics say the practice is archaic or downright creepy, and say it places unreasonable expectations on already stressed youths.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Magic wands

Innovative brushes offer many ways to define and enhance our eyes

CoverGirl expert Paul Venoit advises waiting 30 seconds before applying a second coat of mascara.

From **Best Health Magazine**
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BY RHONDA ROVAN

If you've sworn allegiance to the same mascara for as long as you can remember (most of us have), then you may be missing out on a lot of brush innovation, including products with spring action, rubber-like wands and, the newest, oscillating and vibrating mascaras (good luck using these in a car).

The first wand-in-tube mascaras, which inspired the ones we use today, hit the market in the late 1950s. Until then, mascara was a cake formula applied with a separate mini brush. Fast-forward to the present: $112 million in mascara is sold in Canada each year, and this cosmetic bag essential is the second most frequent makeup purchase by Canadian women (the first is lipstick), according to P&G Beauty. And while companies work to perfect their formulas (for example, the new volumizers and lengtheners contain wax particles, polymers and nylon fibres), the trend in mascaras is now on the brush technology.

"Separation and no clumping" are the biggest needs of mascara wearers, says Sarah Vickery, Maryland-based senior scientist for CoverGirl. According to Vickery, until a few years ago, more than 98 per cent of brushes on the market were the twisted-wire variety. A breakthrough was CoverGirl's rubber-like thermoplastic elastomer brush. "They're more similar to the actual lash," says Vickery. "The product flows off smoothly and doesn't clump."

Left: Estée Lauder TurboLash All Effects Motion Mascara, $38.50, is powered by a button cell battery to deliver a brush that oscillates at 125-cycles per second.

Right: Rimmel's new GlamEyes Mascara gives lashes 10 times more volume.

But whichever mascara brand you gravitate to — the volumizers, the magnifiers, those with mousse-like texture, waterproof or regular — how you apply it is equally important. Paul Venoit, a makeup pro at CoverGirl, has this advice:

- If there's excess mascara on the brush, gently wipe it off on a tissue.
- Place the brush at the base of your lash line and begin to slowly brush through to the tips while gently rolling the applicator. To avoid a mess, keep your eye looking down until the mascara dries; if you apply it to your lower lashes, do them first.
- If you want to apply a second coat, wait about 30 seconds before reapplying.
- To "open up the eye," add extra mascara to outer lashes and leave inner ones lightly coated — this brings attention to the outer corners and creates wider-looking eyes.

Mascara shelf life

- For hygiene reasons, many cosmetic experts recommend replacing mascara every three months.

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Dark Knight makes AFI list

Batman film The Dark Knight has been named as one of the Top 10 movies of 2008 by the American Film Institute. Others include political biopic Milk, animated fantasy Wall-E and Brad Pitt's The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

Nobel Man

Bono has been awarded the annual Nobel Man of Peace prize for his efforts to combat poverty, debt and disease in Africa. The U2 frontman was honoured at a ceremony in Paris.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

DVD picks

Mamma Mia!

Director: Phyllida Lloyd
Rating: PG

ABBA SONGS ARE SO enduring, even a former James Bond likes to croon them now and then. Meryl Streep and ex-007 Pierce Brosnan lead the cast in this adaptation of the stage musical that uses the infectious pop tunes of ABBA to knit together the story of a single mom and three old flames who make a surprise appearance at her daughter's wedding. Single-disc and two-disc DVD releases and a two-disc Bluray set allow viewers to sing-along with the on-screen lyrics and also have a deleted musical number (The Name of the Game), plus commentary with director Phyllida Lloyd. The two-disc sets also come with deleted scenes, making-of segments and a digital copy of the movie for portable video players.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more DVD reviews, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

The Human touch

R&B singer Brandy up front and personal on new album

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Brandy's new album Human tackles the subject of celebrity head on.

Speaking the day before the album's release, Brandy (full name Brandy Norwood) said the project reflects a desire to be more up-front and personal — a tough choice in today's pop culture.

"It seems like everything's perfect (with celebrities), but it's not, (and) emotionally we're all the same," said the singer, who released her first album as a teenager. "I've been able to achieve all my dreams, and I love having achieved so much at a young age. But I realize there's quite a lot going on in the public eye … people can make judgments."

This statement is particularly true given the degree to which celebrities' private lives are captured and broadcast. Along with the usual suspects, Brandy too felt the sting of public perception after she revealed she wasn't actually married to the father of her daughter Sy'rai, Robert Smith. She felt like the story would come out eventually, and so decided to approach it head-on, on the cusp of an album release.

"(Back then) I was feeling like I had to be dishonest about the situation," said Brandy. "Being a role model, people look up to you, and you don't want to disappoint them … (and you're) under so much pressure.

"I wanted to tell the truth and say that honestly won't happen again."

This strategy to directly confront personal stories extends to Brandy's new album. A group effort, with Brandy collaborating with several writers and producers, the songs focus on relationships, as heard on tracks like Long Distance and album closer Fall, a duet co-written with British pop singer Natasha Bedingfield.

"Natasha is the sweetest person — her energy and vibe is amazing," said Brandy. "Fall is about not being afraid to be in love, even if you're scared. We had so much fun recording the song. We were like little kids in the studio, having fun but still working hard."

That image — of a couple of friends cavorting in the studio — is a tough one to conjure at first, given Brandy's multimillion-selling records, award wins, acting credits and pitch-perfect persona. But that's the image she hopes to express with Human: That like all celebrities, she's a regular person.

"The Human (concept) is just about being you — being who and what you are," she said. "I'm trying to describe what's it's like to be a human being, since that's what we all are at the end of day."

SONY BMG PHOTO

Human, the latest album from Grammy-winning singer Brandy, was released last week. It's now available in stores and online.

No theatre for Heath
The decision to name a new performing arts centre in Perth, Australia, after late actor Heath Ledger has been overturned in favour of a more diverse title. The venue will now be called the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia. **IMDB.COM**

Our man at the ballet

For his daughter Aggie, Metro's columnist agreed to be a Cannon Doll in The Nutcracker

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

CATHERINE CHANG

Metro writer Rick McGinnis and his daughter Agnes in their Cannon Doll costumes just before going onstage with the National Ballet of Canada's production of The Nutcracker Sunday.

Becoming the father to daughters means that you start finding glitter on your clothes, mermaid stickers on the bottom of your socks, and many more loads of pink laundry than you ever thought possible in a household unoccupied by drag queens or Playboy bunnies.

It also means ballet lessons, and annual trips to one or more productions of The Nutcracker, so I was more than eager to accept the offer of a pair of tickets to the National Ballet of Canada's opening matinee after spending half a day interviewing a pair of young dancers for Metro.

Not long after, however, a publicist from the company sent me an e-mail inviting me to play a Cannon Doll in one of the performances — if I accepted, I'd be joining the ranks of Mats Sundin, Margaret Atwood, Kurt Browning, Rick Mercer and my friend Michael Coren.

Hard as it may be to believe, I don't crave the spotlight, but then I remembered my ballet-mad five-year-old daughter, Agnes, and realized I was being handed an opportunity to give her an indelible memory.

We showed up at the stage door of the Four Seasons Centre with plenty of time to spare, where stage manager Ernie Abugov and ballet master Lindsay Fischer looked us over and expressed their concern that even the smallest Cannon Doll costume might not fit Agnes.

Cannon Dolls come in pairs, and Michael had told me at a dinner party the night before that he'd brought his wife, Bernadette. Toronto FC soccer captain Jim Brennan appeared with striker Danny Dichio, and this season the Cannon Dolls had included Dan Levy and Jessi Cruikshank from MTV's Hills After Show.

I was steeling myself to face the full fury of Agnes' disappointment all the way to the costume department, but they looked at her as a challenge, and assured us they'd make the costume work.

We were taken to a backstage rehearsal studio for a quick run-through of our routine with dancer Adam Toth, who'd actually be firing the cannon for which our roles were named.

In our dressing room, Grant Heaps from the company's costume department very sweetly went to work pinning up Aggie's costume to make it fit.

Our names were announced just before the curtain went up, and the ballet began. The vast, dim backstage area was far more relaxed than I'd imagined, with dancers talking, dressing and warming up, and stagehands either shifting scenery or surfing the web on their laptops. Aggie gripped my hand, pointing at the ballerina in her snowflake costume, and the headless Dancing Bear doing circuits around the wings on his inline skates.

Then it was time to go on — we were warned to avoid getting smacked in the head by the boughs of the giant Christmas tree, and Adam led the way onstage.

What happened next was a blur; I'd chosen to take the role of the brave Cannon Doll, while Aggie was my timid companion. My wife, sitting in the audience with Aggie's grandmother, said I was a perfectly bellicose ham, and both the stage manager and the usher by the nearest door to our seats agreed.

It was also, everyone agreed, the first time one Cannon Doll had carried the other offstage.

Cruise regrets 'glib' outburst on Today show

QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR It took a few years, but Tom Cruise says he regrets the tongue-lashing he gave morning TV host Matt Lauer on NBC's Today show the last time he was on.

Cruise says he didn't intend to come across as arrogant when he criticized Brooke Shields for taking anti-depressants in 2005.

The conversation grew heated when the star told Lauer he was glib and didn't know about psychiatry.

Cruise, who has been a Scientologist for 25 years, agrees with the religion's long-running campaign against psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry.

The mea culpa comes as Cruise is making rounds on talk-shows to promote his new movie, Valkyrie.

Cruise stars as a would-be assassin of Adolf Hitler in Valkyrie, which is to be released Dec. 25.

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Acting not satisfying for Franco

James Franco says acting doesn't "satisfy" him. The Milk star enrolled in a graduate course at New York University and a creative writing course at Columbia University after Hollywood reportedly left him feeling disillusioned. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Madonna to give ex $93M plus

Madonna has settled her divorce with ex-husband Guy Ritchie by parting with at least 50 million pounds (more than $93 million Cdn), the singer's spokeswoman said yesterday.

Liz Rosenberg said the settlement was in the range of 50 million to 60 million pounds. As part of their divorce agreement, the figure includes the value of the couple's country home, Ashcombe House, in western England, which Ritchie will keep.

Rosenberg said the couple's west London pub — the Punchbowl — would also remain with Ritchie.

A representative for the filmmaker declined comment.

The couple were reportedly worth some $525 million US, the vast majority of which belonged to Madonna. Ritchie had an estimated $35 million fortune.

"I'd assume it's one of the largest payouts ever in a divorce settlement," Rosenberg said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Freddy's back
A remake of Nightmare on Elm Street is to be made. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre makers Brad Fuller and Andrew Form have confirmed the movie is going ahead, and they plan to start shooting next year. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

TV's troubled times

IntelleVision

HELP FOR THE HOPELESS: Network TV has finally shown signs of admitting it's in trouble, and there's no shortage of helpful bystanders willing to offer their opinions on how it can get up off the ground — including yours truly.

Just after NBC announced last week that they'd be turning over the weeknight 10 p.m. slot to Jay Leno, the New York Times business section ran a little analysis of what the news meant — at least if you'd ever spent time sitting in an executive suite in Hollywood or New York.

"The whole nature of TV has become a lot more viewer-friendly," Robert C. Wright, a former chairman of NBC Universal, told the Times. "There are more opportunities than ever before for people to watch a program that they're interested in."

"There's no way to schedule around DVR viewing," said Dawn Ostroff, CW's president of entertainment. "You have to assume that a good number of viewers are going to wind up watching the content in a different way."

The 10 p.m. slot, the home to superannuated procedurals and mediocre news magazines for too long, has become the Siberia of primetime, and a no-go zone for younger viewers, though how Leno's new show is going to bring them back remains to be seen.

In the Boston Globe, TV critic Matthew Gilbert published nine suggestions for how the networks could compete with cable and become relevant again, including more finite runs on series to prevent staleness, more incentive for marquee comedians like Will Ferrell to shift from movies back to TV, perhaps with a show based on current affairs, fewer awards shows, commercials, and irritating onscreen graphics, and a comedy series based on reality television.

The last one is a great idea, and it frankly boggles the mind why no one has tried it yet. As Gilbert points out, "It's time for the networks to acknowledge — and celebrate, and exploit — the fact that we all know about just how fake reality shows are." Amen to that, brother.

> **"It's time for the networks to acknowledge ... the fact that we all know about just how fake reality shows are."**
> Boston Globe TV critic Matthew Gilbert

Gilbert also wishes the networks would curb their enthusiasm for procedurals, but considering that they remain popular — as he himself points out, CBS' The Mentalist is one of the few real hits this season — and a favorite of the demographically-derided but cash-rich older viewer, I can't imagine he'll get his wish.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

GlobalStyle

Monica Cruz on Mango exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Despite return appearance, Poehler leaving SNL

TELEVISION Amy Poehler is officially exiting Saturday Night Live this time.

Less than two months after giving birth to son Archie, she made a surprise return last week to the late-night comedy show where she has been a regular for eight seasons.

Then, Saturday, she surprised viewers again by telling them goodbye.

Amy Poehler

"This is my last show," Poehler announced from her Weekend Update anchor desk. "Being able to do over 140 shows with my friends and my family has been a dream come true."

"I love you," she told the audience, "and I will miss all of you very much."

Viewers won't have to miss her too long. Later this season, Poehler is expected back on NBC in her own weekly sitcom.

Her husband (and Archie's dad) is comedian-actor Will Arnett.

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/16/08	265	353	2	TVO	Blue Realm "Tentacles"		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Street "Bold Street: Stan"		The Choir (Part 2 of 4)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV PA)		(9:01) NCIS (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	*The Santa Clause 2* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (HDTV)		According-Jim	According-Jim	Hates Chris	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order "Zero"		Criminal Minds		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N)				Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Canada	Villages	*Week-end* ★★★ (1967, Com. dramatique) Mireille Darc.				Le Temps
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case "8 Years"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Love Thy Neighbor* (2005, Suspense) Alexandra Paul.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	NCIS "Silent Night" (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		(10:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N)				Momma's Boys (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas		DTV Special	According-Jim	Eli Stone (HDTV) (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Fringe "The Arrival"		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Eli Stone (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)		(9:01) Fringe (HDTV)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Keeping Up	Nova (HDTV) (DVS)		P.O.V. "Inheritance" (HDTV) (N)			Front Lines	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)		Privileged (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Oklahoma City Thunder. (HDTV)					90210
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Wal-Mart Nation		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				On the Money		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey New Jersey Devils at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers.			
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman		Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way to...		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	OddParents	Rocko's Life	Mon. Warriors	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Friends	Will & Grace	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	*Holiday Wishes* (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.				Grocery Bag
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Gone Wild	Gone Wild	So You Think You Can Dance Canada				VMA 08 Remix
	615	520	31	A&E	Cold Case Files		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters: Fugitive		Jacked: Theft
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Serie A	Magnifica Italia	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Where You At	Popaganda		Listed		Celebrity Wrestling		Tommy Lee
	575	583	38	CMT	Canada Countdown		*The Sons of Mistletoe* (2001, Drama) Roma Downey.				Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders
	616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Testees	Trailer Park	House "Act Your Age"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Live at the Rehearsal Hall		One Night With Barry Manilow			Bravo!Videos	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Frame-Up"		Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men		NCIS "Frame-Up"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Land of the Dead* ★★ (2005, Horror) Simon Baker.				Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Keyshia Cole	*Soul Plane* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.				Keyshia Cole	Brother	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	A Double Shot of Love		A Double Shot of Love		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Bless-Father	On the Buses	*The Christmas Shoes* (2002, Drama) Rob Lowe.				Celtic Angels
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	etalk Profile	TMZ (N)	etalk	Fabulous Life	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Dora the Explorer		Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Anges de la rénovation		Monk (SC)		Musicographie René Angelil.		TVA 22 heures	Elvis vu par les Presley	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Lost Boys: The Tribe* (2008, Horror)				*Pan's Labyrinth* ★★★★ (2006, Fantasy) Sergi López.				*Night of Living*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Anaconda*	(7:20) *Absolon* (2003, Science Fiction)			*The Jerk* ★★ (1979, Comedy)			*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*	

critics'corner

Holiday Wishes
After three versions of "Freaky Friday" and about a gajillion different retellings of "The Prince and the Pauper," do we really need another one? Someone thinks so, hence this syrup-fest about a spoiled rich girl and an orphan who switch bodies, just in time to give and receive some lessons in the True Meaning of Christmas. 9 PM on W

NCIS
Gibbs and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about your "Silent Nights." 8 PM on CBS; 9:01 PM on GTV

One Night With Barry Manilow
Recorded for the BBC in 2004, this 90-minute special features the singer-songwriter performing in an intimate setting. His rendition of "Can't Smile Without You" is especially memorable. The special also includes footage of Manilow's 1975 appearance on the British show "The Midnight Special". 9 PM on BVO

Wedding bells for Hendricks
Christina Hendricks, who plays the bombshell head secretary on the Emmy-winning Mad Men, is engaged to actor Geoffrey Arend. No wedding date has been set. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

The Britney and Madonna tour?

RUMOUR Britney Spears is planning to unveil pop star Madonna as a surprise guest when she kicks off her comeback tour next year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Spears joined Madonna onstage in Los Angeles last month during the U.S. leg of her Sticky & Sweet tour, and Spears wants Madonna to return the favour when she hits the road in New Orleans, La., in March.

"I'm choreographing and set-designing her show," Spears' choreographer Wade Robson reveals. "There's been talk of Madonna making an appearance, and there's so many places we could take that. At this point the main issue is timing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fame carries trade offs: Will

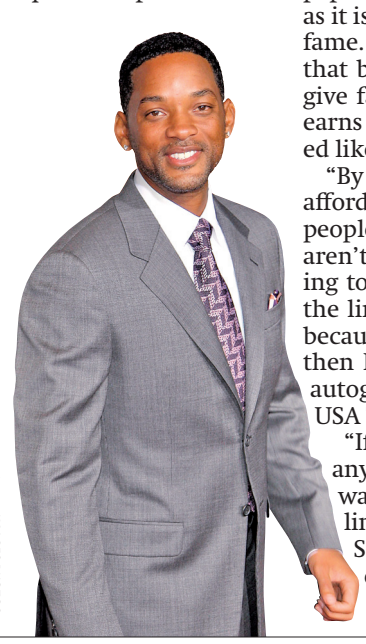
FAME Actor Will Smith is happy to sign autographs for fans, because it means he can leap to the front of the queue in posh restaurants, imdb.com reports.

Smith insists he never moans about the constant attention he receives from paparazzi or movie-goers as it is the price he pays for fame. And he is adamant that by always agreeing to give fans his signature, he earns the right to be treated like a star.

"By being famous, you're afforded rights that other people who aren't famous aren't afforded. If I'm going to walk to the front of the line (at the restaurant) because I'm Will Smith, then I have to sign all the autographs," Smith tells USA Today newspaper.

"If I don't want to sign any autographs, I don't walk to the front of the line. It's that simple. Stand in the line with everybody else."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Moss cancels bash on partner's orders

RELATIONSHIP Kate Moss has cancelled her proposed New Year's Eve party on the orders of her boyfriend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel was planning to attend a star-studded bash in St. Tropez, in the South of France, but her Kills guitarist partner Jamie Hince has insisted she spend the day at home with him and her six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, from a previous relationship.

The couple will see in 2009 at her Oxfordshire home, in the United Kingdom.

"They're back together but they are still arguing about how much Kate goes out," a source says. "Jamie says Kate needs to calm her lifestyle down but she still likes to party. She loves him but she hates the fact he tries to rein her in all the time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Adams an eager actress

CAREER Amy Adams begged and hassled Doubt director John Patrick Shanley to cast her in the movie, even after he offered her part to Natalie Portman, imdb.com reports.

The Oscar nominee was a huge fan of the story, which Shanley wrote, and was desperate to appear in the big screen adaptation, despite the odds being stacked up against her.

"They had offered it (to Portman). I called every week, to see if she was doing it," Adams says.

Her luck changed when Portman said no, and she was offered the role of Sister James. But Adams still had to overcome a logistical problem.

"I lied to John Patrick Shanley and told him I was in New York, so when he called, I had to get the red eye (overnight flight) from Los Angeles, to get there," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Osbourne in hot water after insult leads to scrap

DISPUTE Sharon Osbourne is under police investigation after allegedly scuffling with a contestant on her U.S. reality TV show Rock Of Love: Charm School, imdb.com reports.

Megan Hauserman claims Osbourne assaulted her during a recording of the show's reunion special on Saturday.

Osbourne is said to have flipped when Hauserman insulted her by saying she is only famous because of her marriage to Black Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne.

The rock matriarch allegedly ran across the stage, grabbed Hauserman by the hair, and scratched her.

Website TMZ.com reports that the pair had to be pulled apart by security guards.

Hauserman went to hospital the following afternoon and filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department that night.

Authorities have confirmed Osbourne is a suspect in a minor battery allegation but that no charges have been filed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

No rush to have kids: Eva

PEOPLE Eva Mendes is in "no rush" to have children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

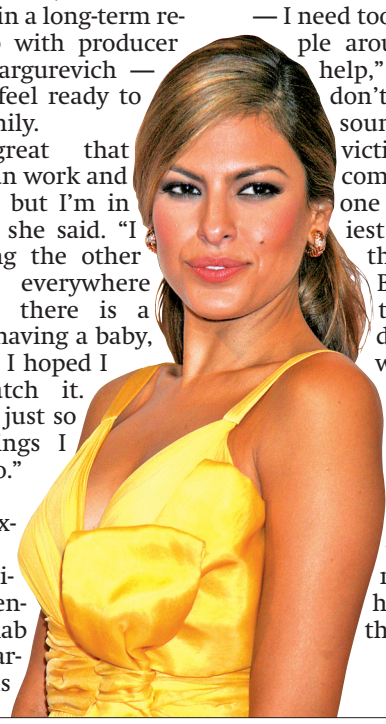
Despite being happy in her private life, the actress — who is in a long-term relationship with producer George Gargurevich — does not feel ready to start a family.

"It's great that women can work and have kids but I'm in no rush," she said. "I was joking the other day that everywhere you look there is a celebrity having a baby, and I said I hoped I didn't catch it. There are just so many things I want to do."

Mendes has also explained her decision to enter a rehab facility earlier this year to be treated for "personal issues."

"Basically, I can't deal with everything life throws at me on my own — I need tools and people around me to help," she says. "I don't want to sound like a victim because, come on, I'm one of the luckiest women in the world. But I have trouble dealing with the fame side of things, so now I see my therapist every week. For me, it's a healthy thing to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Watts welcomes second child

BIRTH Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber welcomed their second child Saturday, People.com reports.

"I can confirm Naomi and Liev had a baby boy," said the actress' rep.

A couple since 2005, Watts, 40, and Schreiber, 41, already have a baby boy, Alexander Pete Schreiber, born July 26, 2007.

Earlier this year, Watts boasted of her first-born, "He's turning pages in the book. He's crawling and standing up. He can wave. I read Goodnight Moon to him every night."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lazing around is sexy: Beyoncé

PEOPLE Pop superstar Beyoncé Knowles feels sexiest for rap husband Jay-Z when lazing around her house with bare feet and messy hair, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"I feel sexiest walking round my house with bare feet and messy hair. Our relationship is very easy. We respect each other. You know someone loves you by the way he treats you," she British tabloid News of The World. "I think like a guy. If I do something wrong I don't get emotional."

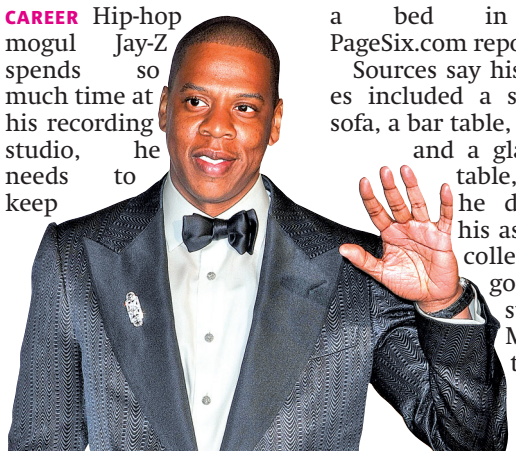
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workaholic Jay-Z decks out studio

CAREER Hip-hop mogul Jay-Z spends so much time at his recording studio, he needs to keep a bed in there, PageSix.com reports.

Sources say his purchases included a sleep-sized sofa, a bar table, bar stools and a glass coffee table, and that he dispatched his assistant to collect the goods at a store in Manhattan.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



"A treat to watch." – Leonard Maltin, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT

"A Christmas feast you won't want to miss!" – Maria Salas, TERRA.COM

"Warm, fuzzy and fun." – David Sheehan, HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS

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"FOUR CHRISTMASES' is a HILARIOUS COMEDY."
Elizabeth Olubodun, OK! MAGAZINE

Vince Vaughn Reese Witherspoon

FOUR CHRISTMASES

NEW LINE CINEMA

PG Parental guidance advised — MATURE THEME, LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND

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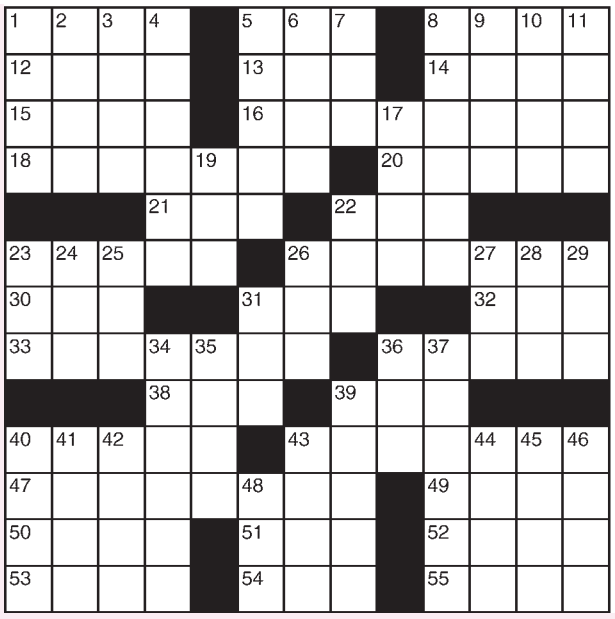
Today Variable -4°/ -6°
Wednesday Flurries 80% 1° / -6°
Thursday Partly sunny -2°/ -8°
WeatherEye... Free App Available on iPhone.

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



Crossword across

1 Provo's state
5 Big bother
8 Snare
12 Bargain basement event
13 Mediterranean, e.g.
14 Crosby's longtime pal
15 Cicatrix
16 Cooperstown non-honoree
18 Flower's fleshy fruit
20 "Psycho" locale
21 Exactly as written
22 Pirate's beverage
23 Follows orders
26 Pelvis portion
30 Kanga's kid
31 Suitcase
32 "Smoking or —?"
33 Arid
36 Pottery fragment
38 Afternoon affair
39 Gorilla
40 Halloween figure
43 Terra firma
47 Fred Mertz, for one
49 Entreaty
50 Sheltered
51 Egg — yung
52 And others (Lat.)
53 Rolling stone's lack
54 Springtime mo.
55 Lasso

Crossword down

1 Cold War initials
2 Mexican entree
3 "Sad to say"
4 Inquisition crime
5 Jellied mold
6 Profound
7 Cereal grass
8 Blood clot (Pref.)
9 Source
10 Church section
11 Rind
17 Shoot- — (violent movie)
19 That guy's
22 Predetermine
23 Sphere
24 Greet the villain
25 A billion years
26 Dinner for Dobbin
27 Three-match link
28 Neither mate
29 Conclusion
31 Underwear with underwire
34 Chopin pieces
35 Farmer's place?
36 James Bond, e.g.
37 Assistant
39 Passion
40 Showy attractiveness
41 Angel's topper
42 Individuals
43 Let fall
44 Chorus member
45 Tide variety
46 Evans or Carnegie
48 "Son — gun!"

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2								8
	9	3				7	5	
			6	4	7			
		1	5	8	2	9		
8	5						6	1
		7	1	6	3	5		
			8	2	9			
	8	9				4	2	
6								3

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	L	T	O	■	D	E	C	■	S	T	A	B
B	O	O	N	■	I	M	A	■	T	I	D	E
A	C	R	E	■	S	U	P	R	E	M	E	S
B	I	N	D	E	R	■	S	E	V	E	N	S
■	■	■	G	A	O	L	■	F	E	Z	■	■
S	U	P	E	R	B	A	D	■	N	O	N	E
E	K	E	■	P	E	P	E	S	■	N	U	N
Z	E	T	A	■	S	U	P	P	R	E	S	S
■	■	E	D	O	■	P	E	R	I	■	■	■
E	R	R	A	N	T	■	N	Y	L	O	N	S
S	U	P	P	O	S	E	D	■	I	R	O	N
P	L	A	T	■	A	G	O	■	N	A	N	O
Y	E	N	S	■	R	O	N	■	G	L	O	W

4	3	1	6	9	8	7	2	5
8	2	7	3	5	1	6	9	4
9	6	5	2	4	7	1	8	3
2	9	4	8	1	5	3	6	7
3	5	6	4	7	2	8	1	9
1	7	8	9	3	6	4	5	2
6	4	3	1	2	9	5	7	8
5	1	2	7	8	3	9	4	6
7	8	9	5	6	4	2	3	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Bean and Mushroom Burgers

INGREDIENTS:
1 15-oz (400-g) can red kidney beans
2 medium red onions, about 8 oz (200g) in total
4 tbsp (60 mL) olive oil
2 tbsp (25 mL) red wine vinegar
2 tbsp (25 mL) raw sugar
8 oz (200 g) button mushrooms
1 clove garlic
1 tbsp (15 mL) garam masala
2 tbsp (25 mL) whole-wheat flour
1 small bunch of fresh mint
Salt and black pepper

METHOD:
1. Rinse beans well and spread out on a dish towel to drain. Peel onions.
2. For red onion relish, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of olive oil in saucepan. Slice one onion thinly and add to pan with vinegar and sugar. Bring to boil, stirring, then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 15–20 minutes, until onion is softened and slightly sticky, stirring from time to time. Remove pan from heat and keep warm.
3. Quarter other onion and put into a food processor. Clean mushrooms, add to the onion, and process until finely chopped. Alternatively, chop them both finely by hand.
4. Heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of olive oil in frying pan, add onion-and-mushroom mixture, and cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally for 5–8 minutes, until golden and dry.
5. Peel garlic and crush into mushroom mixture. Stir in garam masala and flour, and cook for 1 minute. Chop enough mint to make 2 tbsp (25 mL). Remove pan from heat, add mint, and season with salt and pepper.
6. Put kidney beans on a deep plate and mash firmly with potato masher, then stir in cooled mushroom mixture.
7. Divide mixture into four and, with lightly floured hands, shape each serving into a burger.
8. Heat remaining 2 tbsp (25 mL) oil in a large frying pan, add bean burgers, and cook over medium-high heat for 6–8 minutes, turning once, until well browned. Warm pita breads.
9. Arrange burgers on a warm dish or individual plates and spoon onion relish over tops. Serve with warm pitas and a green salad. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Jealousy will cause a man to lose the plot. A sudden reversal makes you pensive. Someone's sarcasm takes on new meaning.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Being reliable and motivated will do wonders for your health. Role playing will cause a problem. Wastefulness will get a lot of attention.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A truth-teller will enjoy a victory. A sweetheart finally learns to apologize. Harmful brainwashing can be eliminated with effort.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Simply ignore other people's temper tantrums. Good manners will lead you into a superb offer. A serious person's hopeless plan will be praised.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid a friend who has been in your way. Your resistance to decadence will weaken. You can enjoy a crisis if you're not forced to deal with it.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll become a strong and mighty influence. All will be well with a passionate guy. An awkward individual will reveal a mystery.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
An older person will be forgotten. Your feelings are obvious to a tough guy. You can consolidate your gains by playing for keeps.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't struggle against fate — accept yours with a smile. Boastful words can be irritating at home. A dilemma may lead to a spat.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A solitary guy finds happiness. An infamous friend becomes involved in an argument. Silly strife is less than thrilling.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't seethe over a grievance. An opponent will knock on your door. Don't fool around trying to change the facts of life.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A man is deeply unhappy about his rights. An explanation is out there, but you must find it. Contact with a hardship case stirs up memories.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A rift in a friendship results from a brazen smile. Peevish remarks will wound others. A heartache will dumbfound everyone.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Aggravate a shop salesperson (1)
2. Whatever one-cent coin (2)
3. May sink teeth into (1)
4. One donating a holder of arrows (2)
5. Shabby and untidy TV vampire slayer (2)
6. Careful and sensible pupil (2)
7. Beatle George's military posts (3)

ANSWERS
1. IRK CLERK 2. ANY PENNY 3. MIGHT BITE 4. QUIVER GIVER
5. SCRUFFY BUFFY 6. PRUDENT STUDENT 7. HARRISONS GARRISONS

12-16-08

HELP FOR OVERWEIGHT TEEN GIRLS

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Maya • Tel: 416-813-7617 • Email: healthy.weight@sickkids.ca

Enrollment is limited to 10 qualified participants.

SickKids

This day in history

DEC 16, 1497: Vasco da Gama rounds the Cape of Good Hope, the point where Bartolomeu Dias had previously turned back to Portugal.
DEC 16, 1907: Great White Fleet started its circumnavigation of the world.
DEC 16, 1965: Vietnam War: General William Westmoreland sends U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara a request for 243,000 more men by the end of 1966.
DEC 16, 1985: Mafia: In New York City, Paul Castellano and Thomas Bilotti are shot dead on the orders of John Gotti, who assumes leadership of the Gambino family.

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